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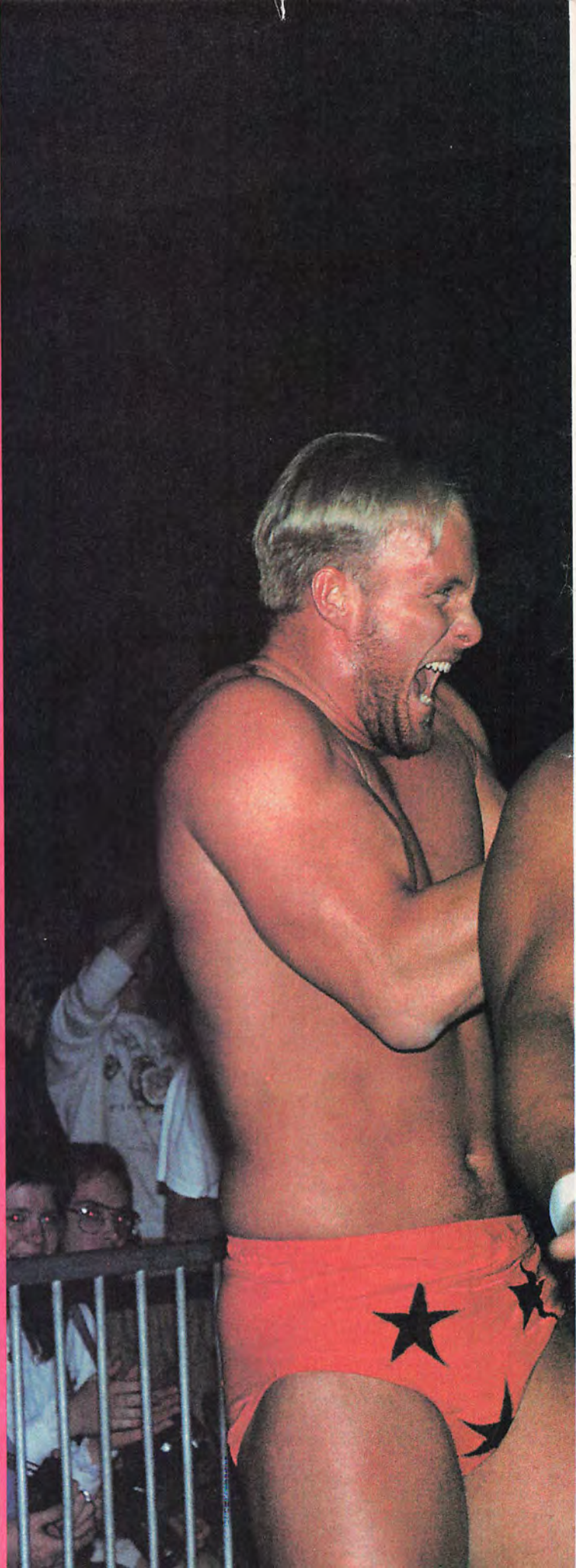
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FEATURES

- 26 **PRESS CONFERENCE: THE HOLLYWOOD BLONDS**
Steve Austin and Brian Pillman tell what it's like to be WCW World tag team champions, and how they plan to retain their belts
- 28 **MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL...**
WHO WIMPED OUT IN THE MIDST OF A BRAWL?
LEX LUGER—COWARD!
The "Narcissist" may have beaten Curt Hennig at WrestleMania IX, but he's been trying to live down his postmatch performance ever since
- 32 **WCW FAN FAVORITES CONFESS:**
"WE'RE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE!"
They're concerned the pendulum is once again swinging in the rulebreakers' favor
- 39 **WHO'S USING WHOM?**
BEHIND THE BIZARRE SHERRI-SHANGO ALLIANCE
They seemingly have little in common, but are quite a tandem. Just ask Jerry Lawler after they teamed to dethrone him as USWA champion
- 42 **SUPERSTAR SUMMIT: STING & HOGAN SAID IT! PWI REVEALS IT!**
Hulk Hogan and Sting on the same card? It happened in Japan. What's more, they were talking afterward. Is something in the works?
- 46 **THE NIGHTSTALKER EXPLODES IN THE WWF:**
KEVIN SULLIVAN IGNITES AN ADAM BOMB
Here's how a Smoky Mountain star escaped a rival's clutches to find a new identity in a new federation

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 **FROM THE DESK OF...Stuart M. Saks**
Wrestling has become a job for Marcus Alexander Bagwell
- 8 **BETWEEN FALLS**
Razor Is Sharp; Ross' Price; Flair-Rude Feud
- 10 **RINGSIDE with Bill Apter**
All the latest news as of press time
- 12 **WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW by Andy Rodriguez**
Hennig is too obsessed with revenge
- 14 **IN FOCUS with Craig Peters**
Shawn Michaels gets a Raw deal
- 16 **THE STEEL CAGE by Chris Bernucca**
Ric Flair knows exactly what he's doing
- 18 **OFF THE TOP ROPE with Eddie Ellner**
The always-controversial columnist answers readers
- 20 **OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
The sport's most respected rankings
- 22 **RATINGS ANALYSIS**
Readers reply on third world belt
- 24 **SCOUTING REPORT**
Brutus Beefcake, Scott Norton, Mr. Hughes, and more
- 35 **PWI CLOSE-UP: PAUL ORNDORFF**
An in-depth profile of "Mr. Wonderful"
- 62 **ARENA REPORTS**
The world's most comprehensive collection of match results
- 68 **WRESTLING ENQUIRER**
Late-breaking happenings from around the sport
- 70 **PWI HOT SHOT**
Fired up in Philly



Rick Steamboat appears ready to succumb to a chokehold by "Stunning" Steve Austin. "The Dragon" is not alone among WCW fan favorites. The story on page 32 reveals how the popular WCW stars are struggling to turn the tide against that federation's dominant rulebreakers.

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from the desk of...

Stuart M. Saks

The mornings used to be brighter for Marcus Alexander Bagwell. The sun still rises brightly over his Marietta, Georgia, apartment every day, but Bagwell isn't as quick to spring out of bed and open the blinds as he was, say, a year ago.

"I know the sun is up and, believe me, I still want to see it, but the legs don't want to get me there," he said with a smile as we ate breakfast together in a small Marietta restaurant. "I've aged a lot over the last couple of years."

The grueling nature of this sport has a tendency to have that effect on every competitor, but, interestingly, it is particularly so with the young ones. "From what I understand from talking to the guys," Bagwell said between bites of cornflakes, "once you're around a while, you kind of get used to it. You become numb to the physical pounding and you get used to the travel. But I dunno."

He doesn't know when the time will come when he'll grow accustomed to the lifestyle he has chosen for himself. What he does know is that between 1989 and 1992, he didn't have these problems. Every day was a new adventure that started when he bounced out of bed and said hello to Mr. Sun.

"I'd set the alarm for 7 in the morning because I was enjoying myself so much, I didn't want to waste the day away in bed," he said. "The other guys would laugh at me, because we get in very, very late after an evening card. If you didn't have to travel right away the next day, most everybody else was sleeping to 11, 12."

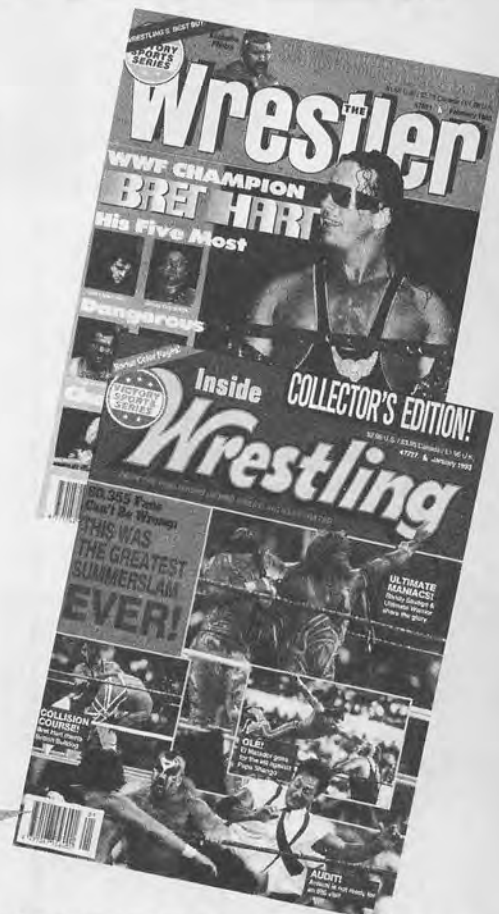
Bagwell would often get three or four hours of sleep, by choice. But it didn't matter.

(Continued on page 60)

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WHO'S JERKING WHOM?

We told Hulk Hogan, "Don't Jerk Us Around," on the cover of our July 1993 issue. At press time, we couldn't have imagined that Hulk would leave WrestleMania IX with his fifth WWF World belt, one he improbably earned by beating the newly-crowned Yokozuna in an impromptu challenge.



Hulk Hogan (seen here in a scene from *Mr. Nanny*) has spent more time acting than he has wrestling of late. Readers' responses to his latest WWF World title win have been mixed.

If Hogan's future plans—mat work or movies—seemed up in the air before regaining the title, what happens now?

Some of our readers are in the "Hulkster's" corner. "Stop doing all your Hogan-bashing," said Brad Cooper of Hillsdale, New Jersey. "He brings thousands of people into arenas night after night and never fails to give a great show. He does more charity work than any wrestler has ever done."

Several other responses were also pro-Hogan. But his critics contributed their share as well.

"The day I heard Hulk Hogan was

returning, I knew Bret Hart would be handing the belt over to him," said Roxanne Miller of Kenosha, Wisconsin. "Hogan became champion with the same old move—the infamous legdrop. Where's the champ now? Making another movie? I'd rather have a wrestler as champion, not a film star. In and out of the ring, there's no way Hulk Hogan can beat Bret Hart."

NOT JUST GIMMICKS

In the May 1993 "Between Falls," Angelina Quinones said Doink contributed to the "circus atmosphere" of the WWF, and one of your columns bashed federation officials for considering Doink a title contender. However, please ignore his exterior personality and see how talented Doink, and others, are in the ring. Every wrestler with a gimmick—Skinner, Repo Man, and El Matador among them—can all wrestle (with the possible exception of Papa Shango). We fans should pay attention to what *really* matters—the wrestling, not the gimmick.

GREG TAGGESELL

Buffalo, NY

RAZOR LOOKS SHARP!

After watching Razor Ramon teach Randy Savage a lesson about machismo at the Survivor Series, I feel it's only a matter of time before he attains another piece of gold—this time around his waist. He is El Jefe, and will rule not only the WWF, but the entire wrestling world in this decade. Razor has the skill, power, and attitude to hold on to the WWF title for a very long time. He backs down from no one and as he says, "The Razor will cut you

up!" Good luck, Razor, and keep on manhandling all your opponents. *Hasta la vista.*

P.S. PWI is the best thing going today!

GARY MILLER

Yonkers, NY

ROSS REVEALS HIS PRICE

I could hardly believe it when Jim Ross disappeared from WCW telecasts in late-February. I wondered what became of him, until the first weekend in April, when I saw him on WWF's WrestleMania IX singing the praises of wrestling's greatest embarrassment, Hulk Hogan. I could not believe my eyes.

For five years, Ross shamelessly promoted the spontaneity and sheer athletic quality of WCW matches. He also never missed a chance to take pot shots at the cartoonish, circus-like atmos-



Broadcaster Jim Ross showed his true colors when he jumped ship from WCW to the WWF earlier this year, in the opinion of reader Dave Baxter.

phere of the WWF. We never took exception to any of his comments, because we knew, in fact, he was telling the truth.

The point is, Jim Ross working for the WWF is like Mickey Mantle playing for the Boston Red Sox. One can only wonder, can Ross' old buddy, Cowboy Bill Watts (also late of WCW and a noted WWF-basher), be far behind?

I guess Ted DiBiase was right—everybody has a price. In Ross' case, the price was too high. I always had respected Ross as a wrestling journalist from his days in the old Mid-South area. Not anymore. I feel I can speak for all true wrestling fans when I say, "Jim Ross, you make me sick."

DAVE BAXTER
York, PA

☎ NOT 2 SOON FOR TITLE

I'm waiting for that day when those obnoxious Hollywood Blonds are demoted to second features—hopefully by my favorite new tag team, 2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Alexander Bagwell. Do these guys click, or what? Both had other partners before, but it took this combination to create the chemistry, the charisma, the artistry. They are fun to watch; all they need is experience.

Fly high, Scorpio! Overwhelm 'em, Marcus!

KRYSTAL DAWSON
Sturgis, MI

MORE PUTSKI, PLEASE

I was pleased to see a rare action shot involving Ivan Putski in the May 1993 *PWI*. In my opinion, Ivan should have received far more publicity and space in your magazines over the past five years. How about an article on him now or at least another action photo?

STEVE JAY
Colchester, Essex, UK

SHE'S ON SHERRI'S SIDE

Is that ugly creep Luna Vachon really managing Shawn Michaels now? Or is she in the WWF for other reasons, like antagonizing Sensational Sherri? If

so, she has certainly accomplished that.

On a recent *Monday Night Raw*, I saw a wild catfight between Luna and Sherri, who were both down to their underwear by the time the officials separated them. I can see from the way Sherri suplexed Vachon on the concrete floor that she still has a lot of fight left in her. She'd tear Vachon to shreds inside the ring, and I for one would love to see it.

While I've despised and severely criticized Sherri in the past (for good reasons), I'm definitely on her side this time. Let's hook 'em up in the ring now and see what they're made of. You can bet Sherri will send the "Luna-tic" back to the asylum she escaped from.

RITA M. BUDA
Chicago

JACK'S JUST DESSERTS

After seeing Cactus Jack leave a match nearly paralyzed, it's safe to say Harley Race wasn't using Paul Orndorff to keep Jack away from WCW World champion Big Van Vader ("Press Conference," July 1993). Vader's power bomb on the concrete nearly cracked Jack's skull in two, and that's great! He's always been no more than a greasy cheap shot artist, and got just what he deserved.

In destroying Cactus, Vader proved he takes on all challengers. Cactus never showed mercy to the likes of Sting and other fan favorites, and he certainly didn't deserve any. Therefore, let's commemorate this occasion by ringing the final bell—which may have already tolled for Jack!

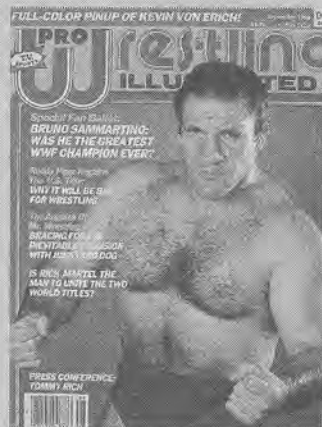
DAVE SZYMANAK
Binghamton, NY

FEELS INFLUENTIAL

I would like to congratulate the editors of *PWI* on a fantastic July 1993 issue. The photos are wonderful, as are the columns (though I can do without Eddie Ellner's "Off The Top Rope"). I don't know the wrestlers personally, but I feel I do when reading the transcripts of conversations with them.

(Continued on page 54)

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI



The cover of the September 1983 issue showed Bruno Sammartino, with the headline: "Was He The Greatest WWF Champion Ever?" The answer belonged to the readers. Inside was a ballot listing Sammartino and the federation's six previous champs since its inception in 1963. When the poll was tabulated two months later, Sammartino took an incredible 66 percent; Bob Backlund was a distant second with 14 percent. Now, had the survey been held a year or two later, after the advent of "Hulkamania" ...

The centerfold featured Kevin Von Erich, who had won several state titles and had recently suffered a controversial NWA World championship loss to Ric Flair. As might be expected of a Von Erich, his most hated opponents were The Freebirds, and he singled out Michael Hayes for particular scorn. Sadly, Kevin is the lone surviving wrestler of the star-crossed brothers from Texas.

Elsewhere in the magazine: *PWI* profiled a pair of unlikely champions—Southern beltholder Frank Dusek and Florida champ Scott McGhee ... An article asked, "Is Rick Martel The Man To Unite The Two World Titles?" (NWA and AWA) ... Experts predicted Roddy Piper's regaining the U.S. title would be bad for wrestling because it would reignite his massive ego ... Mr. Wrestling II said he was concerned that his popularity might eventually cause some friction with his good friend, Junkyard Dog ... Larry Zbyszko was stripped of his NWA National title, which he'd purchased from Killer Brooks for \$25,000 ... Andre the Giant was feuding with Kamala, manager Gen. Skandor Akbar, and handler Friday ... Matt Brock took a look at Sgt. Slaughter, who had recently started his second tour of duty in the WWF.

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

A GROUP OF irate WWF wrestlers have lodged a protest with President **Jack Tunney**, claiming World champion **Hulk Hogan** inappropriately besmirched the federation after a recent match in Fukuoka, Japan.

The wrestlers, none of whom were identi-

allegedly said. "The IWGP belt is like a Rolls Royce. It's the real world championship belt."

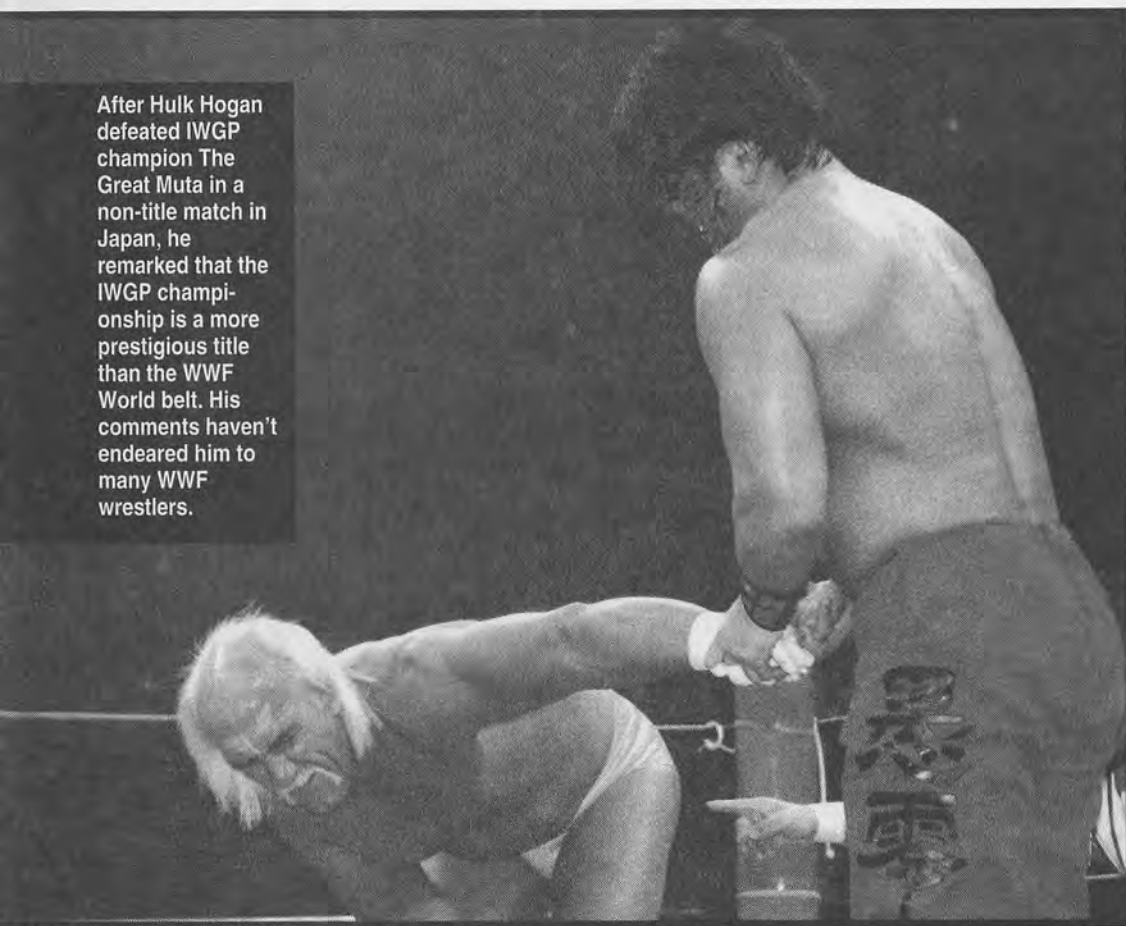
Hogan's comments couldn't be verified because no American reporters attended the press conference, which followed Hogan's win over Muta. His comments were

translated into Japanese for the press members present and no English transcript was available.

"It doesn't matter," one wrestler said. "My sources on this are damn good and I've had someone translate his comments from Japanese back into English. Maybe a little got lost in the translation, but not all of it. It's amazing that Hogan, who made his career in the WWF, could walk around belittling the federation. It's damn insulting!"

Wolfie D. beat **Dan Davis** for the USWA middleweight title on May 8 in Memphis, Tennessee ... Some unusual changes are

After Hulk Hogan defeated IWGP champion The Great Muta in a non-title match in Japan, he remarked that the IWGP championship is a more prestigious title than the WWF World belt. His comments haven't endeared him to many WWF wrestlers.

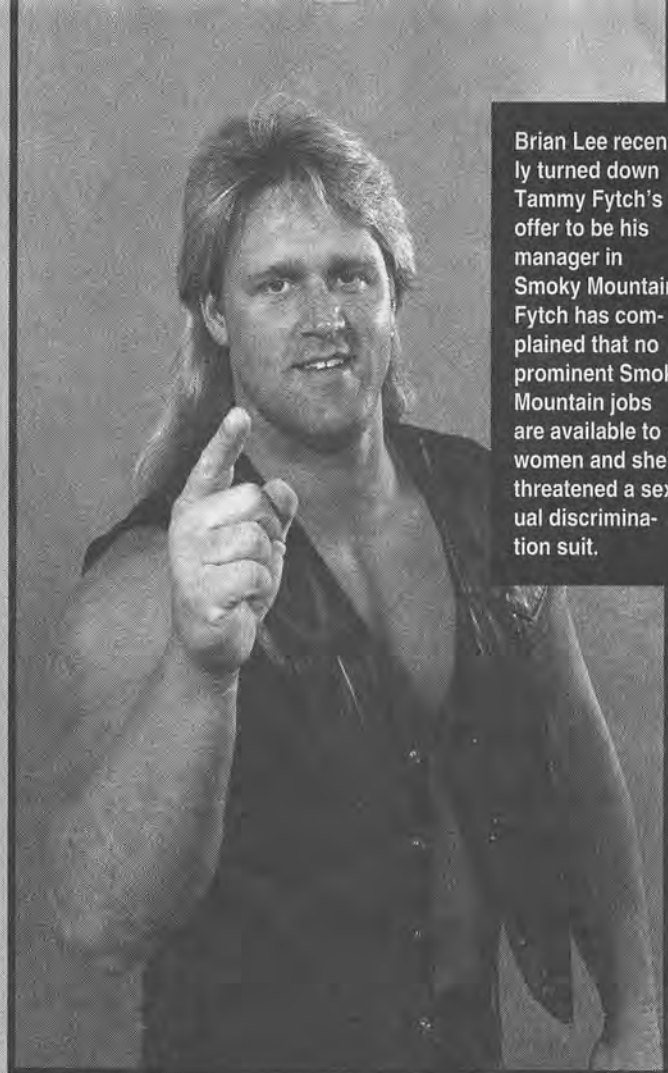


fied by high-ranking sources, are asking for a stiff fine or suspension to be levied against the "Hulkster" for his comments after the "Wrestling Dontaku" card on May 3 at the Fukuoka Dome.

Hogan allegedly compared the WWF belt to a Christmas ornament and said he really wants the IWGP belt, currently held by **The Great Muta**.

"The WWF belt is like a Honda," Hogan

afloat in the Global Wrestling Federation. **Sweet Daddy Falcone** is calling himself **Guido Falcone** and is teaming with **Vito Mussolini**, the former **Shawn Stevens**. The duo is known as **The New Sicilians** and they're feuding with **Stevie Ray** and **Booker T** ... **Terra Rizing** is the champion of the New England-based International Wrestling Federation. His top challenger is **Tony Roy**, who is also a top contender for **Perry**



Brian Lee recently turned down Tammy Fytch's offer to be his manager in Smoky Mountain. Fytch has complained that no prominent Smoky Mountain jobs are available to women and she's threatened a sexual discrimination suit.

Saturn's IWF light heavyweight belt.

Smoky Mountain Wrestling Commissioner **Bob Armstrong** continues to spend more time dealing with lawyers than with wrestlers. **Tammy Fytch** has threatened a sexual discrimination suit against the federation, claiming it does not employ women in any prominent positions.

Fytch claims she wanted to be a TV commentator, a referee, or hold an upper management position, but was turned away in her attempts.

"Bob Armstrong can't do the job," said Fytch, a New England woman who models herself after first lady **Hillary Clinton** and idolizes President **Bill Clinton**. "What this federation needs is a woman to get things in order. With me around, Smoky Mountain could be bigger than the WWF and WCW combined!"

Armstrong said he was advised by lawyers not to comment on the situation, but

said he encouraged Fytch to apply for a manager's license. Fytch, however, said her attempts to become a manager have been denied by the "elitist, sexist pigs who run SMW."

"I approached **Brian Lee**," Fytch said. "He looked at me and said, 'Hon, if I wanted a woman leading me around, I'd get married, and you're not my type.' Imagine that kind of attitude and it's almost the 21st century! It's an insult not only to myself, but to all women. I told **Dixie Dynamite** I could make him a star, but he obviously wants to go on being a loser."

All of the SMW news isn't being made in the board rooms. Lee defeated **Bobby Eaton** for the SMW TV title, thus ending Eaton's controversial stay in the federation. Armstrong had discovered that Eaton was under contract to WCW when he signed with SMW, and ordered him to leave the

(Continued on page 58)

THE FIRST THING one wants to know about Curt Hennig nowadays is this: Is the man losing it?

"Mr. Perfect" should be known for his calm demeanor and cool, detached outlook, but he goes berserk at the sight of former WWF Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels.

Now for most, this would be quite understandable. The "Boy Toy" is incredibly arrogant and usually worthy of the hatred he engenders. Somehow, though, one would like to think Hennig is sufficiently self-assured not to let Michaels' actions bother him. But they do.

Those who saw a recent *Monday Night Raw* telecast discovered how far Hennig is willing to go to quench that anger. Several hours before the show began, Michaels was being



Curt Hennig and Shawn Michaels have gone toe-to-toe for months in the WWF. Hennig's violent rage toward the "Boy Toy" has stretched beyond the goal of winning the Intercontinental title.

interviewed outside Manhattan Center when Hennig pounced on him, beginning a wild brawl that ended only after

WIN LOSE OR DRAW

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

Hennig had used his rival's body to crack a car's windshield.

Several onlookers who saw the fight up close picked up what the TV cameras could not—a look in Hennig's eyes that seemed to say, *I don't just want to hurt you. I want to put you out for good.* The usually gregarious fans were so spooked that none of them consented to be interviewed on the record, lest Hennig plan retribution.

"I know, I know that sounds silly," one of them said. "But Curt is really wacked out. I had never seen him like that before. Michaels is lucky he still has the strength to wrestle. Hennig was out for blood that night."

Never stumped for an explanation, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan gave one for Hennig's violent act. He said Hacksaw Jim Duggan had paid Hennig to attack Michaels, because Duggan had a title match with the "Boy Toy" that night. He wanted Hennig to injure the champ so badly that he would have to forfeit the match and title, or at least wrestle in such a weakened state that he wouldn't put up a decent fight.

That simply doesn't wash. Duggan's always been a man to settle his own

affairs; it's laughable to think he'd get a hired gun to hurt an opponent. Hacksaw's code of conduct states if you can't do it in the ring yourself, then you're in the wrong profession.

Heenan's aim then was not to give a rationale after all, but to make Duggan look bad. The real answer is more elusive.

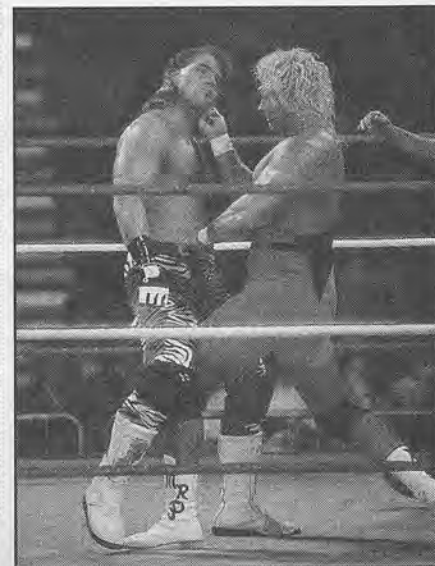
Hennig wasn't finished with Michaels that night. When the champ and Duggan met in the lumberjack title match, Michaels limped to the ring on crutches, insisting the attack had rendered him unable to defend his championship.

Hennig, one of the lumberjacks, recognized the ruse, pounced on him again, and tossed him in the ring. Michaels contested the match as though he had never been attacked. Despite a spirited effort by Duggan, the champ won by disqualification when Hennig interfered.

He interfered, some say, because he wanted to insure that Michaels remains

(Continued on page 56)

Hennig throws another punch at the chin of Michaels. "Mr. Perfect's" temper has gotten the best of him in this feud. He even attacked Michaels outside an arena, using Michaels' body to crack a car's windshield.



60 WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. AIRPLANE SPIN
2. ARMBAR
3. ARMDRAG
4. ARMLOCK
5. ARM STRETCH
6. ARM WHIP
7. ASIAN SPIKE
8. BEAR HUG
9. BITING
10. BODY SLAM
11. BODY TACKLE
12. CHICKEN WING
13. CHOKE
14. CLAW
15. CLOTHESLINE
16. CROSS BODY BLOCK
17. DOUBLE-AXE HANDLE
18. DROP KICK
19. EAGLE SPLIT
20. ELBOW SMASH
21. EYE GOUGE
22. FACE RAKE
23. FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM
24. FLYING BODY PRESS
25. FLYING CLOTHESLINE
26. FLYING DROP KICK
27. FLYING ELBOW DROP
28. FLYING HEAD BUTT
29. FLYING MARE
30. FOREARM SMASH
31. FOREIGN OBJECT
32. FULL NELSON
33. GIANT SWING
34. GRAPEVINE
35. HAIR PULLING
36. HAMMERLOCK
37. HEAD LOCK
38. HEAD STOMP
39. HEART PUNCH
40. HIP ROLL
41. IRISH WHIP
42. KNEE DROP
43. LEGLOCK
44. MANAGER INTERFERENCE
45. MONKEY FLIP
46. OVERHEAD TOSS
47. POLE RAM
48. REVERSE CHINLOCK
49. ROLLING SCISSORS
50. ROPE BURN
51. SAVATTE KICK
52. SCISSORS GRIP
53. SHOULDER BREAKER
54. SLINGSHOT
55. SNAP MARE
56. STEP-OVER TOE HOLD
57. SUPLEX
58. SURFBOARD
59. TURNBUCKLE SMASH
60. WRISTLOCK

30 SET-UP HOLDS

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH
62. ATOMIC DROP
63. AVALANCHE
64. BACKBREAKER
65. BACKROLL PRESS
66. BELLY TO BELLY
67. BIG SPLASH
68. BOSTON CRAB
69. BRAIN BUSTER
70. BULLDOG
71. CAMEL CLUTCH
72. COBRA CLUTCH
73. CRADLE
74. CRUCIFIX
75. D.D.T.
76. FIGURE FOUR
77. FLYING LEG DROP
78. GOURD BUSTER
79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK
80. NECKBREAKER
81. PILEDRIVER
82. POWER BOMB
83. POWER SLAM
84. RUSSIAN SICKLE
85. SLEEPER
86. SLINGSHOT SUPLEX
87. SMALL PACKAGE
88. SPINE BUSTER
89. SUNSET FLIP
90. SUPERPLEX

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WRESTLER'S HEIGHT _____

WRESTLER'S WEIGHT _____

MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU) _____

WRESTLER'S SPECIAL GIMMICK _____

PW10693

FINISHING HOLD _____

Wear-Down Holds: choose 10 from the list of 60 shown at left. List them in order. Use each only once.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____

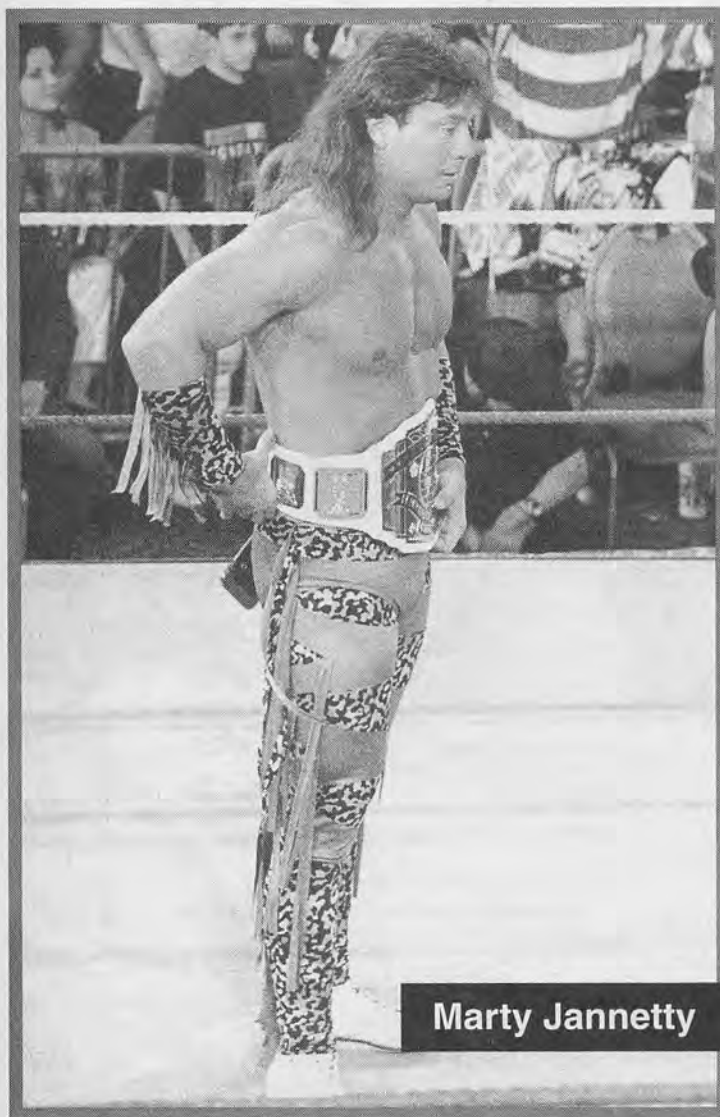
Set-Up Holds: choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at left. List them in order. Use each only once.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

Finishing Hold: create "custom" final maneuver or choose a hold from either list shown at left. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces:

WFOCUS

WITH CRAIG PETERS



Marty Jannetty

INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE RIPOFF

I'm no fan of Shawn Michaels', but I think he was unfairly railroaded into what resulted in his Intercontinental title loss on *WWF Monday Night Raw* in late-May.

Michaels came to the ring and was trash-talking—nothing new for the “Boy Toy” (Why *does* he share that nickname with Madonna, anyway?)—when out came his former tag team partner, Marty Jannetty. A confrontation ensued, and Michaels—who said he would defend his I-C belt against “anyone, anyplace, at any time”—had to put up or shut up. He tried to shut up, but Vince McMahon and the fans in attendance at the Manhattan Center wouldn't let him.

Forced into a title match he didn't want, Michaels wrestled well against Jannetty, who got the title-winning pin when “Mr. Perfect” Curt Hennig made a perfect pitch of the towel that was around his neck, hit Michaels in the face, and allowed Jannetty to roll the champ up for the three-count.

Of course, if the videotape replay rule was in effect in wrestling, the title change would have been instantly nullified. After all, Jannetty should have been disqualified for Hennig's interference.

All of which is to take nothing away from Jannetty. He's a solid wrestler and, if he can withstand a violent feud with his former Rockers partner, will make a solid I-C champion.

It's just that Jannetty seems like too honorable a guy to want to have his first major singles title start off on the wrong foot like that.



Paul E. Dangerously

AND SPEAKING OF TITLE CONTROVERSIES AND VIDEOTAPES...

Here's a baffler for you: When is a videotape rule not a videotape rule?

Answer: When it's WCW's videotape rule.

Explanation: It seems that WCW officials are willing to hold up a title as the result of a videotape replay, but they're not willing to make any sort of decision regarding the title as the result of that very same tape.

As you've probably figured by now, I'm talking about the Rick Rude-Dustin Rhodes debacle surrounding the U.S. title. I'm sure you saw it, too: Dustin picked Rude up for a belly-to-back suplex, fell back, and both men's shoulders were pinned. Rude lifted his shoulder before the three-count

was complete, but so did Dustin. This wasn't immediately evident from the first camera angle shown on television, but the second camera on the scene clearly told the tale: Both men had raised their shoulders before the three-count was complete. In effect, *both* referees on hand for the match were correct (one claimed Rude lifted his shoulder, the other saw Dustin do the same).

So what do WCW officials do? Continue the match? Declare the bout a no-contest? Judge that one man had lifted his shoulder first and give him the win?

No, any of those alternatives would have required a clear and decisive judgment. At press time, WCW officials have declared the title held up pending further review of the situation. Further review? Why? To what end? The tape was clear as Crystal Pepsi.

Once again, WCW is playing with its championships—to the detriment of both the wrestlers and the fans.

(By the way, has anyone in WCW given any thought to the light heavyweight title lately? Just wondering.)

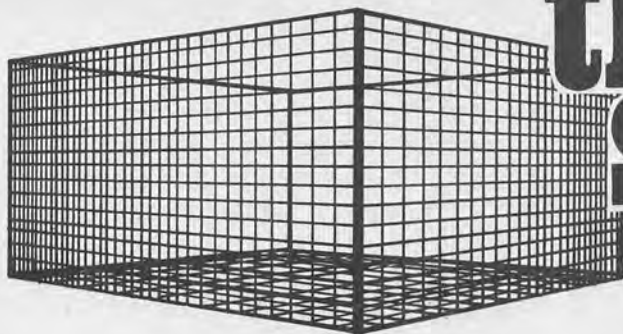
THE DANGEROUS ALLIANCE RETURNS

Paul E. Dangerously is not the kind of guy who likes to sit around and watch television while the sport is whirling dervishly in front of his eyes. So when his Dangerous Alliance disbanded in WCW, he quickly set to work rebuilding his rulebreaking cooperative. The result: The Dangerous Alliance, this one consisting of Jimmy Snuka, Magnificent Muraco, Eddie Gilbert, and The Dark Patriot. The frightening fivesome recently invaded ECW and scooped up a gym bag's worth of wins and belts: Muraco wears the ECW heavyweight belt, Snuka is ECW TV champion...and don't think The Super Destroyers are going to hold on to those ECW tag team belts for very long.

Dangerously's Alliance has already thrust ECW into the national spotlight.

"That's the way it always is with me," Dangerously said. "Wherever I go, the focus of the federation is on me. I make things happen. I'm a doer, not a spectator. I don't care whether it's WCW, ECW, or you name it—if I'm there, I'm going to be successful. It's that simple."

Certainly, Dangerously's presence in ECW—and his formidable stable of rulebreakers—make this Philadelphia-based independent worth watching, at least for the immediate future! □



the steel cage

By Chris Bernucca

TALKING A GOOD game. We were all wrong about Ric Flair. He didn't return to WCW to reunite The Four Horsemen. He didn't return to WCW to regain the NWA title. He didn't return to WCW to become the first 10-time world champion.

No, silly. Ric Flair returned to WCW because he wanted Missy Hyatt's job.

What other explanation is there for Flair's reluctance to wrestle? Since resurfacing in WCW at SuperBrawl III in late-February, Flair has done everything except wrestle. He has made idle threats toward former Horseman stablemate and NWA champion Barry Windham about wrestling for "the title he never lost." He has offered open invitations to the women of Atlanta. He has even begun his own interview segment, entitled "A Flair For The Gold."

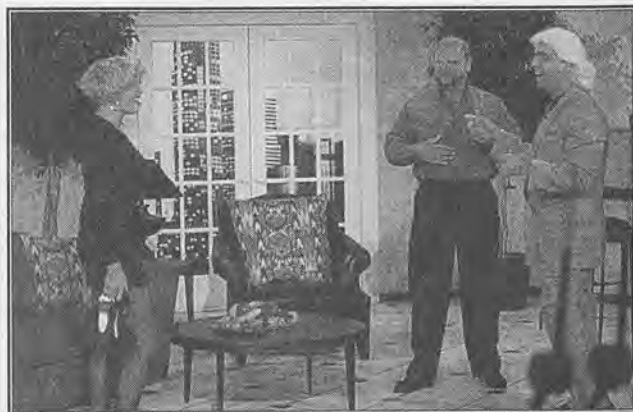
Since his departure from WCW in 1991, fans have been screaming "We Want Flair." I'm pretty sure that meant the fans wanted Flair to wrestle. In fact, I don't recall any chants that said, "We Want Flair To Conduct Interviews." That chore should be left to people like Gordon Solie. Ric Flair conducting interviews is like

Michael Jordan shooting free throws.

For the record, the last time American fans saw Flair in the ring, he lost. The "Nature Boy" was pinned by Curt Hennig in a loser-leaves-WWF match on national television. For someone with an ego as large as Flair, that may have been a tough pill to swallow.

But you don't get to be a nine-time champion without losing some big matches. In fact, to be a nine-time champion, you have to lose eight title bouts. To be a nine-time champion, you also have to shake off those losses and rediscover the skill and determination that got you to the top of the heap, and no one in the history of the sport has done that better than Ric Flair.

It is hard to fathom Ric Flair losing faith in his ring skills. In an era of oversized brawlers, he remains one of the sport's top scientific grapplers. His figure-four leglock is still among the most effective submission holds, and his acrobatic skills are vastly underrated.



Missy Hyatt is an unhappy guest on the new WCW interview segment "A Flair For The Gold." Ric Flair can use his broadcasting position to scout opponents he will likely face when he decides to re-enter the ring.

It is also hard to fathom that the fire that burns inside Flair has been extinguished. He has made some shrewd business decisions away from the ring, among them the opening of a fitness center in his hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina. Flair has plenty of money and nothing left to prove. If he wanted to walk away from wrestling, he could.

When Flair first left WCW in mid-1991, retirement was an option. Instead, he joined the WWF and went right after Hulk Hogan, the federation's icon. Within months, the hardware was around his waist, the result of his remarkable hour-long performance at the 1992 Royal Rumble.

During his first WWF title

reign, he may have allowed his cockiness to get the best of him. Throughout his 20-year career, that has been Flair's one glaring weakness. He antagonized Randy Savage with insinuations of an affair with Elizabeth, who at the time was married to Savage. But when the "Macho Man" defeated Flair at WrestleMania, the "Nature Boy" didn't pout. He devised a plan to regain the coveted belt, and did so shortly after SummerSlam '92.

The idea that Flair is wary of the competition in WCW is preposterous. He has conquered Windham, Sting, and Rick Steamboat in no less a forum than a title match. He is familiar with the styles of Rick Rude, Arn Anderson, and Davey Boy Smith. In fact, the only WCW wrestlers he hasn't beaten are the ones he has yet to wrestle.

Another possibility being discussed is that Flair is hurt. That is also doubtful. We're talking about a man who survived a plane crash in 1975, ignored doctors' orders to give up the sport, and put together a Hall-of-Fame career. Big Van Vader, the current WCW World champion, often talks about playing the "pain game," but what he may not realize is that Flair wrote the book. He has the resiliency of Wile E. Coyote.

Flair may be using his TV spot to scout opponents, much the way Paul E. Dangerously used his position as announcer two years ago to evaluate talent for The Dangerous Alliance. In interviews, Flair can probe into a wrestler's psyche and find

out what makes him tick. As a member of WCW's broadcast team, he has access to videotapes of matches, which help him determine a wrestler's strengths and weaknesses. And you can be sure that if there is a weakness to be exploited, Flair will find it and exploit it.

Since returning to WCW, Flair has made his presence felt without removing his suit jacket. Although he has wrestled most of his career as a rulebreaker, he appears to be adopting the stance of a fan favorite. He has issued

Flair and Randy Savage battle in the corner. Their WWF feud began when a cocky Flair insinuated he had an affair with Savage's then-wife, Elizabeth. Savage ended it when he halted Flair's first WWF title reign.

bold threats, but has yet to follow up on them. He has foes plotting lines of defense when he has yet to deliver a single blow. Every wrestler in the federation is wondering what will be his next move.

This is Ric Flair at his best. He understands the psychological warfare of the sport better than anyone, and he is using it to make the path to a 10th world title and immortality as smooth as possible.

Missy Hyatt, fear not. Ric Flair doesn't want your job. He already has one. Ric Flair is wrestling's teacher, and he is about to take the students of WCW to school. It is Grappling 101, a class they cannot pass. □



BY EDDIE ELLNER

off the Top Rope

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag,
send your letters to:

TOP ROPE, Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034



[Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.]

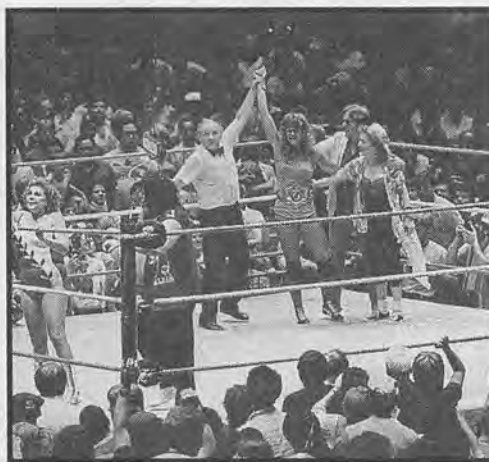
AFTER MANY COMFORTABLE years in the corner, I have been uprooted from my old desk and moved to a suburb of Philadelphia. Conditions here are worsening by the moment.

The editors, invested with all sorts of new power, have not only lost their limited capacity for producing new ideas, they have also taken on the worst intolerance of ignorance and stupidity. All who presume to discuss their shortcomings are damned. It is impossible for imagination to flourish in such an atmosphere. Which is why I'm negotiating to remain behind, even if that tactic will cost me money I can ill-afford, and without which my cat, Hansen, and I will slowly starve.

But, to paraphrase several sources, better to die a noble death than to spend a week with Bill Apter every Tuesday.

Dear Eddie,

With the hoopla surrounding Luna Vachon and Sherri Martel, is there really a chance of women's wrestling launching a comeback?



Women's wrestling will never reach the heights of popularity it experienced in the heyday of Wendi Richter and Fabulous Moolah, according to columnist Eddi Ellner.

Can it ever regain the popularity it enjoyed when Wendi Richter and Fabulous Moolah headlined Madison Square Garden in the mid-'80s? Is the WWF serious in its commitment? Or is the federation just exploiting the women for some cheap publicity?

ELISE ATLANTIC
Tampa, FL

Dear Elise,

The correct response is answer D: The federation is shamelessly using Vachon and Martel without any intention of promoting

women's wrestling back to the exalted (?) status it once briefly enjoyed. And exactly what was that status, Elise? For a few days, Wendi Richter was the hot flavor—why? Certainly not because of her charms or charisma. Certainly not because of a patented finishing move, immense strength, or acrobatic skill. Richter, and those lucky women who road her coattails, owed their popularity to MTV, Cyndi

Lauper, and the Great Cycle of Life that decides when and why certain things capture the public's imagination and certain things, like my Uncle Ned's strawberry peeler, don't. Until they invent a woman who can power-bomb Lex Luger into submission, or until The Undertaker undergoes a sex change operation, interest in female wrestling will remain as it always has: in direct proportion to the amount of naked flesh shown.

(Continued on page 66)

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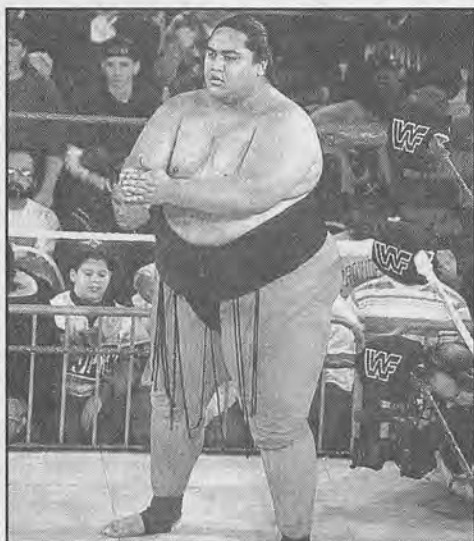
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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

PWI's Top 10



Yokozuna

TOP 10

- 1 **STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
(2) No. 2 contender: WCW title
- 2 **BRET HART**
235, Calgary, Alberta
(3) No. 3 contender: WWF title
- 3 **BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
(7) NWA champion
- 4 **BIG VAN VADER**
404, Denver, CO
(1) WCW World champion
- 5 **MARTY JANNETTY**
230, Columbia, GA
(-) WWF Intercontinental champion
- 6 **CURT HENNIG**
240, Minneapolis, MN
(6) No. 2 contender: WWF I-C title
- 7 **LEX LUGER**
290, Chicago, IL
(-) No. 5 contender: WWF title
- 8 **YOKOZUNA**
505, Samoa
(-) No. 6 contender: WWF title
- 9 **ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
(-) No. 1 contender: NWA title
- 10 **SHAWN MICHAELS**
260, Miami, FL
(5) No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title

TAG TEAMS

- 1 **STEVE AUSTIN & BRIAN PILLMAN**
Combined weight: 467 pounds
(1) WCW World tag team champions
- 2 **RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
Combined weight: 483 pounds
(3) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title
- 3 **MONEY INC.**
Combined weight: 492 pounds
(2) WWF World tag team champions
- 4 **RICK STEAMBOAT & SHANE DOUGLAS**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
(5) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag title
- 5 **THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
(9) Smoky Mountain tag team champions
- 6 **HULK HOGAN & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
Combined weight: 573 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title
- 7 **REX KING & STEVE DOLL**
Combined weight: 477 pounds
(7) USWA tag team champions
- 8 **2 COLD SCORPIO & MARCUS BAGWELL**
Combined weight: 460 pounds
(8) No. 2 contenders: WCW tag title
- 9 **TIM HORNER & BRIAN LEE**
Combined weight: 479 pounds
(-) No. 1 contenders: SMW tag title
- 10 **KENT & KEITH COLE**
Combined weight: 470 pounds
(-) No. 4 contenders: WCW tag title

WCW

World Champion:

BIG VAN VADER
(C) 404, Denver, CO

- 1—**DUSTIN RHODES**
(1) 254, Austin, TX
- 2—**STING**
(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**RICK RUDE**
(4) 246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 4—**BARRY WINDHAM**
(3) 263, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
(5) 253, Brandon, FL
- 6—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
(-) 238, Honolulu, HI
- 7—**ARN ANDERSON**
(-) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—**DAVEY BOY SMITH**
(9) 245, Leeds, England
- 9—**MAXX PAYNE**
(7) 350, Iowa City, IA
- 10—**ERIK WATTS**
(-) 262, Tulsa, OK

WWF

World Champion:

HULK HOGAN
(C) 300, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—**MARTY JANNETTY**
(-) 230, Columbia, GA
- 2—**SHAWN MICHAELS**
(1) 220, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**BRET HART**
(2) 235, Calgary, Alberta
- 4—**CURT HENNIG**
(4) 240, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—**LEX LUGER**
(10) 290, Chicago, IL
- 6—**YOKOZUNA**
(3) 505, Samoa
- 7—**CRUSH**
(-) 310, Honolulu, HI
- 8—**TATANKA**
(5) 260, Miami, FL
- 9—**BOB BACKLUND**
(-) 242, Princeton, MN
- 10—**THE KID**
(-) 200, Tampa, FL

GLOBAL

North American Champion:

STEVIE RAY
(C) 265, Dallas, TX

- 1—**ANGEL**
(1) 310, Los Angeles, CA
- 2—**MIKE DAVIS**
(-) 235, Tampa, FL
- 3—**STEVEN DANE**
(-) 232, Dallas, TX
- 4—**TERRY SIMMS**
(2) 220, San Francisco, CA
- 5—**CALVIN KNAPP**
(-) 231, Dallas, TX
- 6—**BLACK BART**
(4) 261, Pampa, TX
- 7—**JOHN HAWK**
(-) 280, Sweetwater, TX
- 8—**CHAZ TAYLOR**
(9) 225, Houston, TX
- 9—**JOHNNY MANTELL**
(5) 260, Dallas, TX
- 10—**GUIDO FALCONE**
(6) 245, Dallas, TX

USWA

USWA Champion:

PAPA SHANGO
(-) 340, parts unknown

- 1—**JERRY LAWLER**
(C) 234, Memphis, TN
- 2—**BRIAN CHRISTOPHER**
(4) 230, Memphis, TN
- 3—**JEFF JARRETT**
(1) 220, Hendersonville, TN
- 4—**JEFF GAYLORD**
(5) 280, St. Louis, MO
- 5—**KOKO B. WARE**
(7) 229, Union City, TN
- 6—**WOLFIE D.**
(8) 250, parts unknown
- 7—**BILLY TRAVIS**
(-) 218, Houston, TX
- 8—**ROCK 'N' ROLL PHANTOM**
(10) 245, parts unknown
- 9—**STEVE MARINO**
(-) 240, Memphis, TN
- 10—**DAN DAVIS**
(3) 218, Nashville, TN

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue, while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 **HULK HOGAN**
300, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 **STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3 **BRET HART**
235, Calgary, Alberta
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 4 **MARTY JANNETTY**
230, Columbia, GA
Last month: unrated
- 5 **CURT HENNING**
235, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 6 **DAVEY BOY SMITH**
245, Leeds, England
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- 7 **DUSTIN RHODES**
254, Austin, TX
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 8 **THE KID**
201, Tampa, FL
Last month: unrated
- 9 **RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last month: unrated
- 10 **CACTUS JACK**
303, Truth or Consequences, NM
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1 **BIG VAN VADER**
404, Denver, CO
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 2 **BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 3 **YOKOZUNA**
505, Samoa
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 4 **SHAWN MICHAELS**
220, San Antonio, TX
Last month: unrated
- 5 **TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksport, TN
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 6 **RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 7 **KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
- 8 **PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 9 **PAPA SHANGO**
340, parts unknown
Last month: unrated
- 10 **BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mount Laurel, NJ
Last month: unrated

For period ended May 18, 1993

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. Bret Hart | 75 points |
| 2. Big Van Vader | 55 points |
| 3. Rick Rude | 40 points |
| 4. Ron Simmons | 39 points |
| 5. Shawn Michaels | 38 points |

TAG TEAMS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Money Inc. | 71 points |
| 2. Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas | 53 points |
| 3. Rick & Scott Steiner | 52 points |
| 4. Steve Austin & Brian Pillman | 48 points |
| 5. The Natural Disasters | 36 points |

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion:

TITLE HELD UP

- 1—**TRACEY SMOTHERS**
(C) 227, Atlanta, GA
- 2—**TONY ANTHONY**
(3) 235, Bucksport, TN
- 3—**BRIAN LEE**
(4) 251, Los Angeles, CA
- 4—**KILLER KYLE**
(7) 303, Atlanta, GA
- 5—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
(5) 252, Boston, MA
- 6—**RICK MORTON**
(-) 228, Memphis, TN
- 7—**TIM HORNER**
(1) 235, Morristown, TN
- 8—**TOM PRICHARD**
(-) 220, Houston, TX
- 9—**ROBERT GIBSON**
(-) 225, Pensacola, FL
- 10—**TASMANIAC**
(-) 245, Tasmania

IWCCW

IWCCW Champion:

TITLE VACANT

To be determined in tourney

- 1—**JOE SAVOLDI**
(1) 220, Parsippany, NJ
- 2—**JIMMY DEO**
(2) 301, Blandon, PA
- 3—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**
(6) 280, Moscow, Russia
- 4—**TOMMY DREAMER**
(5) 245, Yonkers, NY
- 5—**EL DIABLO**
(8) 246, Toluca, Mexico
- 6—**TASMANIAC**
(3) 245, Tasmania
- 7—**JOHNNY WILDSID**
(9) 285, parts unknown
- 8—**THE NINJA**
(7) 277, Japan
- 9—**L.A. GORE**
(4) 288, Los Angeles, CA
- 10—**COUSIN LUKE**
(10) 336, Mud Lick, KY

BIG D: Big D champion—Bill Irwin; 1—Big D; 2—Steven Dane; 3—Terry Simms; 4—Calvin Knapp; 5—Guido Falcone; 6—Action Jackson; 7—Scott Braddock; 8—Mr. Mister; 9—Billy Joe Travis; 10—Big Johnny Hawk.

ECW: ECW champion—Don Muraco; 1—Jimmy Snuka; 2—Terry Funk; 3—Eddie Gilbert; 4—The Sandman; 5—Salvatore Bellomo; 6—Tony Stetson; 7—Hawk; 8—Dick Murdoch; 9—J.T. Smith; 10—Ivan Koloff.

ICWA: ICWA champion—Frankie Rose; 1—Cuban Assassin; 2—Top Gun Assassin; 3—Jeff Bradley; 4—Verne Henderson; 5—Rico Federico; 6—Lord Of Discipline; 7—Jumbo Barretta; 8—Ned Brady; 9—Billy Mack; 10—Gary Nice.

PWA: PWA champion—Tommy Ferrara; 1—The Hater; 2—Charlie Norris; 3—Billy Blaze; 4—Rocky Rice; 5—Horace the Psychopath; 6—Masked Jungle Fighter; 7—Brad Rheingans; 8—El Torro; 9—J.B. Trask; 10—Man of the 90s.

PWF: PWF champion—Italian Stallion; 1—George South; 2—Flaming Youth; 3—Cruel Connection II; 4—Terry Austin; 5—Scotty McKeever; 6—Russian Assassin I; 7—Star Ryder; 8—Killozer; 9—Scotty Hot Body; 10—Super Brat.

USA: USA TV champion—Col. DeBeers; 1—Jimmy Snuka; 2—Max Steele; 3—Lou Andrews; 4—Jesse Barr; 5—Bart Sawyer; 6—Bruiser Brian; 7—Karl Pope; 8—John Rambo; 9—Dane Rush; 10—C.W. Bergstrom.

WWA: WWA champion—The Spider; 1—Chris Evans; 2—Ed The Razor; 3—Shasheem; 4—Bobby Salsa; 5—Boy Gone Bad; 6—Chris Candido; 7—Barry Hardy; 8—Duane Gill; 9—Scott Veda; 10—Abdullah Singh.

WWC: WWC Universal champion—Carlos Colon; 1—The Mountie; 2—Invader I; 3—Killer Karl Wallace; 4—Ron Harris; 5—Don Harris; 6—Jose Luis Rivera; 7—Abdullah The Butcher; 8—Giant Warrior; 9—Ricky Santana; 10—Mohammed Hussein.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

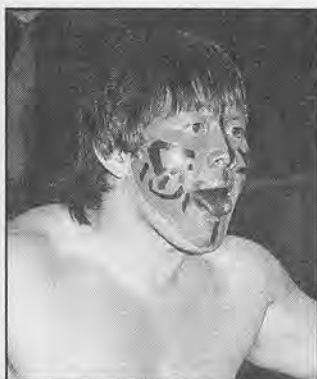
Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

A third world champion? Readers say it's NWA. In the June 1993 "Ratings Analysis," we asked whether a third federation should have a world champion recognized alongside the WWF and WCW. The readers overwhelmingly answered yes, and NWA was the federation they chose.

By more than a 20-to-1 ratio, they agreed a third world belt should be awarded. NWA was the runaway winner, getting more than twice the support of USWA, while Global placed a distant third.

NWA's name predates televised wrestling, but the federation became WCW in 1990, shortly after being purchased by Turner Broadcasting. Two years later, the NWA heavy-weight title was revived; it is allied with, but autonomous from, WCW.

Sure the NWA's history is intermingled with WCW, said Charles Lemons Jr. of Okay, Oklahoma. But if the NWA belt is not a prestigious world title, then why is everyone in Japan and WCW after it. I think PWI should recognize the NWA title as a world title, and also have a separate rating for the NWA.



The Great Muta

Joshua Kramer of Hamilton, New Jersey, concurred. *The NWA title is recognized worldwide; already, NWA title defenses have taken place in the U.S. and Japan. Masa Chono, The Great Muta, and Barry Windham (past and present NWA champs) can hold their own with anyone in the world.*

Jimmy Nance of Asheboro, North Carolina, cited the NWA's heritage. *The NWA title has been around since*

1905 and true ring greats such as the legendary Harley Race, Ric Flair, Sting, and Dusty Rhodes have all held the prestigious strap now held by Barry Windham.

The USWA basically limits its cards to Tennessee and surrounding states, but has been around—and thrived—since the 1950s, thanks in part to sound leadership and solid wrestlers such as **Jerry Lawler**. Its most passionate defender was Chris Roberts of Houston. *The USWA is the best anywhere. After all, that's where it started with Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage. I feel the USWA will get more TV coverage*

due to its tie-in with the WWF, and I hope WWF will pit its champion against the USWA champ.

Adam Scepiani of Baltimore stated, *The USWA title has been held by or defended against the best veterans and rising stars anywhere in the U.S.*

When founded in 1990, Texas-based Global planned to present cards both domestically and overseas, but that never got off the ground and its bouts are now limited to Dallas. Nevertheless, it has a booster in John McCarthy of Arlington Heights, Illinois. *I watch Global on ESPN and I am impressed with Rod Price (since dethroned by Stevie Ray) as Global champion.*

There was even a vote for the European-based CWA. *I think this federation deserves a world title, as it promotes cards all around Europe, and has an excellent talent roster including Hawk, Rambo, and Dave Finlay, noted Michael Liptrot of St. Helens, England. I believe PWI supports the growth of wrestling worldwide, and what better way than to give a federation outside the U.S. a chance to hold the world title and be compared with the WWF and WCW?*



Jerry Lawler

On the other hand, Thomas Eyton-Jones of Benton, Louisiana, favors maintaining the status quo. *Should there be another recognized "world" title? It's hard to recognize the ones we have! Unless major contenders continue to surface or it develops its own roster of talent, the NWA will not have a title worth the metal in Ric Flair's old depreciated belt.*

The USWA definitely has the credentials but not the national impact; now Jerry Lawler is exploiting an agreement with the WWF to get some exposure. If that's what the USWA's biggest draw must do to be recognized, it will never be ready to have a real "world" champion.

Global: Don't make me laugh!

Your voice counts—use it. What topics are on your mind? We'd like to hear from you. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Box 956, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □



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scouting report

BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

HOMETOWN: San Francisco, CA

HEIGHT: 6'3-1/2"

WEIGHT: 273

YEARS AS PRO: 9

RATING: No. 6, tag team (with Hulk Hogan)

STRENGTHS:

- Wrestling injured. Opponents are so busy trying to pull off his mask, they don't wrestle him.
- Determined. Beefcake is out to prove that his comeback is for real.
- Knowledge. Used extended layoff to study the sport ... and study ... and study ...

WEAKNESSES:

- Wrestling injured. His facial injuries were massive; he had to change his style to protect his head.
- Hulk Hogan. When rulebreakers want to get to the "Hulkster," they concentrate their attack on Beefcake.
- Ring rust. Hasn't wrestled regularly in several years.

OTHER COMMENTS: One-time WWF rulebreaker, but became fan favorite ... Remains ally of former foe Hogan ... He and Greg Valentine held WWF World tag team title in 1985-86 ... Had become a legitimate WWF singles title contender before parasailing accident in Tampa, Florida, on July 4, 1990 ... Needed almost nine hours of surgery to repair his facial features.

OUTLOOK FOR '93: It's highly unlikely Beefcake will ever regain his pre-accident form; he was simply out of the game too long. Nevertheless, he is still a dangerous and respected opponent, and can certainly once again make waves as a tag teamer.

HOMETOWN: Tampa, FL

HEIGHT: 6'1"

WEIGHT: 235

YEARS AS PRO: 23

RATING: unrated

STRENGTHS:

- Intimidation. Prematch interviews tend to frighten foes—as does his ability to follow up on his threats.
- Veteran. Has wrestled a veritable Who's Who of professional wrestling.
- Reputation. An opponent knows that when he wrestles Slater, he's in for the fight of his life.

WEAKNESSES:

- Predictable. The "Unpredictable" Slater essentially has a one-dimensional brawling style.
- Stamina. His ability to launch an offensive decreases markedly after the 10-minute mark.
- Knees. Several operations have limited his speed and agility.

OTHER COMMENTS: A former AAU wrestling champion ... Still renowned for elbowsmash/kneedrop, spinning toehold, and figure-four ... Ex-U.S. titleholder ... Teaming with Dick Murdoch as The Hardliners in 1991, ripped up Scott Steiner's left bicep.

OUTLOOK FOR '93: Past his prime? Perhaps, but don't tell him that. He remains tenacious, whether it be against a headliner or a rookie. WCW rivals who take him lightly could be in for a surprise.

DICK SLATER



MR. HUGHES



HOMETOWN: Kansas City, MO

HEIGHT: 6'5"

WEIGHT: 308

YEARS AS PRO: 5

RATING: unrated

STRENGTHS:

- Unrelenting. It is almost impossible to get him to take a backward step.
- Side slam. This stunning maneuver is Hughes' equivalent of Big Van Vader's power bomb.
- Gridiron-tough. Football background has held him in good stead in the wrestling ring.

WEAKNESSES:

- Clothing. Stylish, but his unconventional ring attire could leave him vulnerable to attack.
- Harvey Wippleman. This weasly manager never seems to give any of his charges the attention they deserve.
- Training. Taught by pros' pros like Harley Race and Bob Geigel, but never uses that knowledge.

OTHER COMMENTS: Was once a bodyguard for Lex Luger in WCW ... A one-time AWA competitor ... Definitely a fan favorite despite his scowling exterior and refusal to smile ... Former Kansas State football player, which might be why he refuses to smile.

OUTLOOK FOR '93: Among the WWF's rising stars—in both popularity and ability. Has the potential to capture the Intercontinental or World title in the next few years, but must be patient.

HOMETOWN: Minneapolis, MN

HEIGHT: 6'3"

WEIGHT: 360

YEARS AS PRO: 4

RATING: unrated

STRENGTHS:

- Power. Norton is among the strongest wrestlers anywhere in the world.
- Training. Is schooled in both American-style wrestling and Japanese mat techniques.
- Anonymity. A seasoned wrestler who is largely unknown by his current U.S.-based opponents.

WEAKNESSES:

- Knee injury. Has been wrestling while hurt both in Japan and the U.S.
- Musculature. His overdeveloped physique hampers his flexibility.
- Vadesque. An opponent who knows Big Van's style knows all he needs to know about Norton.

OTHER COMMENTS: Before turning to wrestling, he was a superheavyweight arm-

SCOTT NORTON



wrestling champion ... Learned his American skills from the renowned Verne Gagne ... Initially made his mark in Japan; now intends to conquer North America.

OUTLOOK FOR '93: His recent knee injury has weakened his mobility, so he might want to lay low until it completely heals. Vader has shown him the pathway to victory via power and strength; can Norton read the map?



KENSUKE SASAKI

HOMETOWN: Tokyo, Japan

HEIGHT: 5'10"

WEIGHT: 233

YEARS AS PRO: 7

RATING: unrated

STRENGTHS:

- Upper-body strength. Despite relatively small size, can bench-press 440 pounds.
- Clothesline. Japan's equivalent of the States' "Steinerline."
- Hawk. Training with his IWGP tag champ partner has toughened Sasaki that much more.

WEAKNESSES:

- Overall size. Though pound-for-pound powerful, has a below-average frame for the sport.
- Riki Choshu. Sometimes tries to live up to the reputation of his idol; should remember to always be his own man.
- Impatient. Uses flying moves before foe is properly set up.

OTHER COMMENTS: Teamed with Hiroshi Hase to win IWGP tag team title, beating The Great Muta and Masa Chono ... His favorite moves include a "reverse ipponzei," essentially a hip toss variation, and Soviet judo suplexes.

OUTLOOK FOR '93: Like most Japanese wrestlers, he's fundamentally sound and a smart tactician. If WCW had a light heavyweight division, he'd rank among the elite. As it is, Sasaki must be content to reach the lower portion of the Top 10, with the occasional upset of a big-name foe.

HOMETOWN: Tampa, FL

HEIGHT: 6'2"

WEIGHT: 200

YEARS AS PRO: 4

RATING: No. 10, WWF

STRENGTHS:

- Knowledge. Is always eager to learn whatever he can from his fellow wrestlers.
- Fearless. Is among the highest of the high-flying grapplers in the world today.
- Realistic. Knows his best fighting weight is precisely where he's at now, and doesn't try to bulk up unnecessarily.

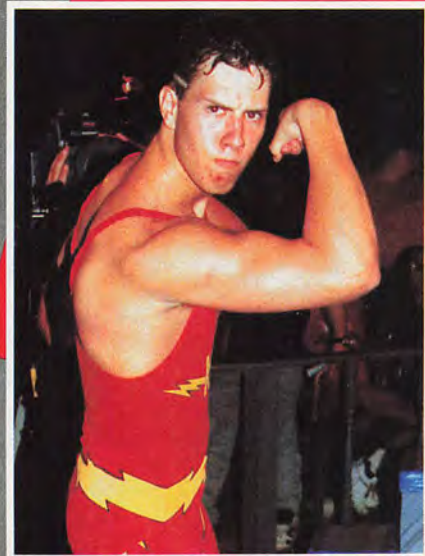
WEAKNESSES:

- Career pressure. Now in the WWF, was beaten by both Doinks; as a result, is regarded by foes as an easy win.
- Repertoire. Reckless out-of-the-ring high-risk aerial style is sure to lead to serious injuries.
- Immaturity. Still seems more of a fan than a pro.

OTHER COMMENTS: Known for years in pre-WWF career as The Lightning Kid and The Kamikaze Kid ... Took light heavyweight belt while in Global ... Also competed in NAWA.

OUTLOOK FOR '93: A gutsy performer, but simply too small and inconsistent for a legitimate heavyweight title run. However, his enthusiasm and insatiable desire to learn might make him best qualified to write the definitive wrestling instructional book, after he leaves the ring for good.

THE KID



THE HOLLYWOOD



ODD BLONDS

press conference

STEVE AUSTIN AND Brian Pillman are a classic example of the total being greater than the sum of two parts. Both were champions as individuals. Austin is a two-time WCW TV champion, while Pillman has twice worn the now-forgotten light heavyweight title. But when the two formed a tag team late last year, no one thought they would be this dominant.

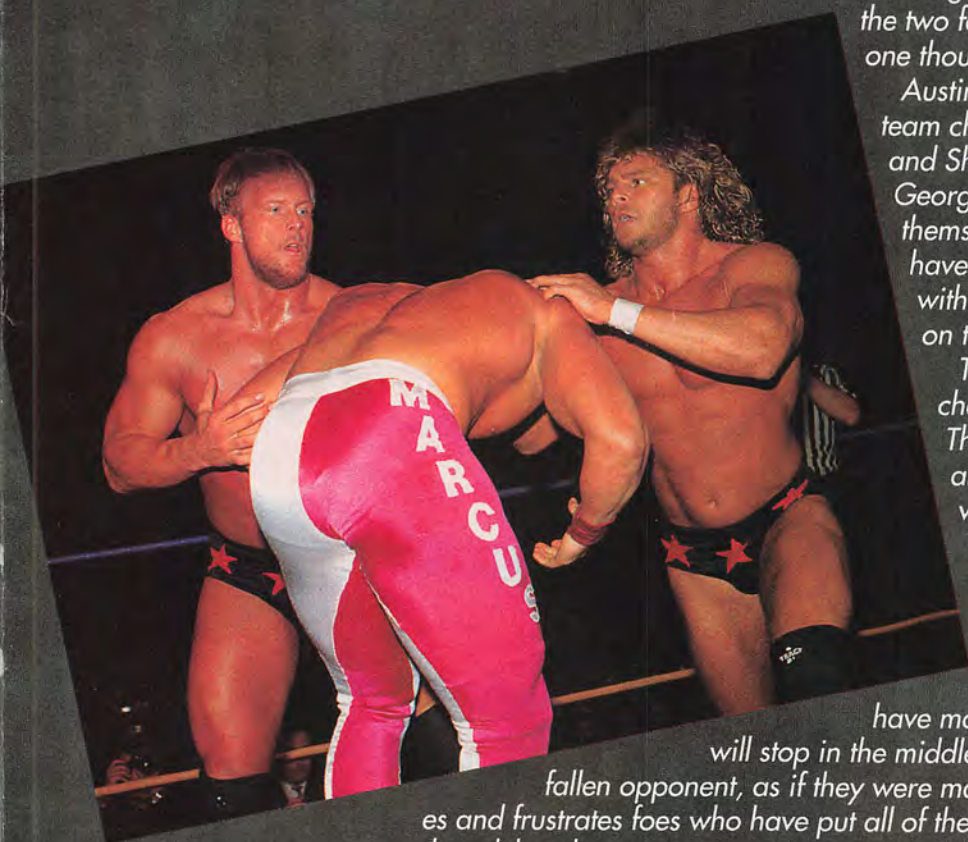
Austin and Pillman won the World tag team championship from Rick Steamboat and Shane Douglas on March 2 in Macon, Georgia. As champions, they dubbed themselves The Hollywood Blonds and have combined their considerable talents with rulebreaking to maintain a firm grip on the title.

The relationship between the tag team champions is not a conventional one. The two often argue during matches and several times have been on the verge of brawling with each other. The goal of defending the title and remaining champions is usually the only thing that prevents the two from coming to blows.

Austin and Pillman also seem to have more fun than most tag teams. They will stop in the middle of a match and mockingly "film" a fallen opponent, as if they were making a movie. This both embarrasses and frustrates foes who have put all of their focus on regaining the title from the rulebreakers.

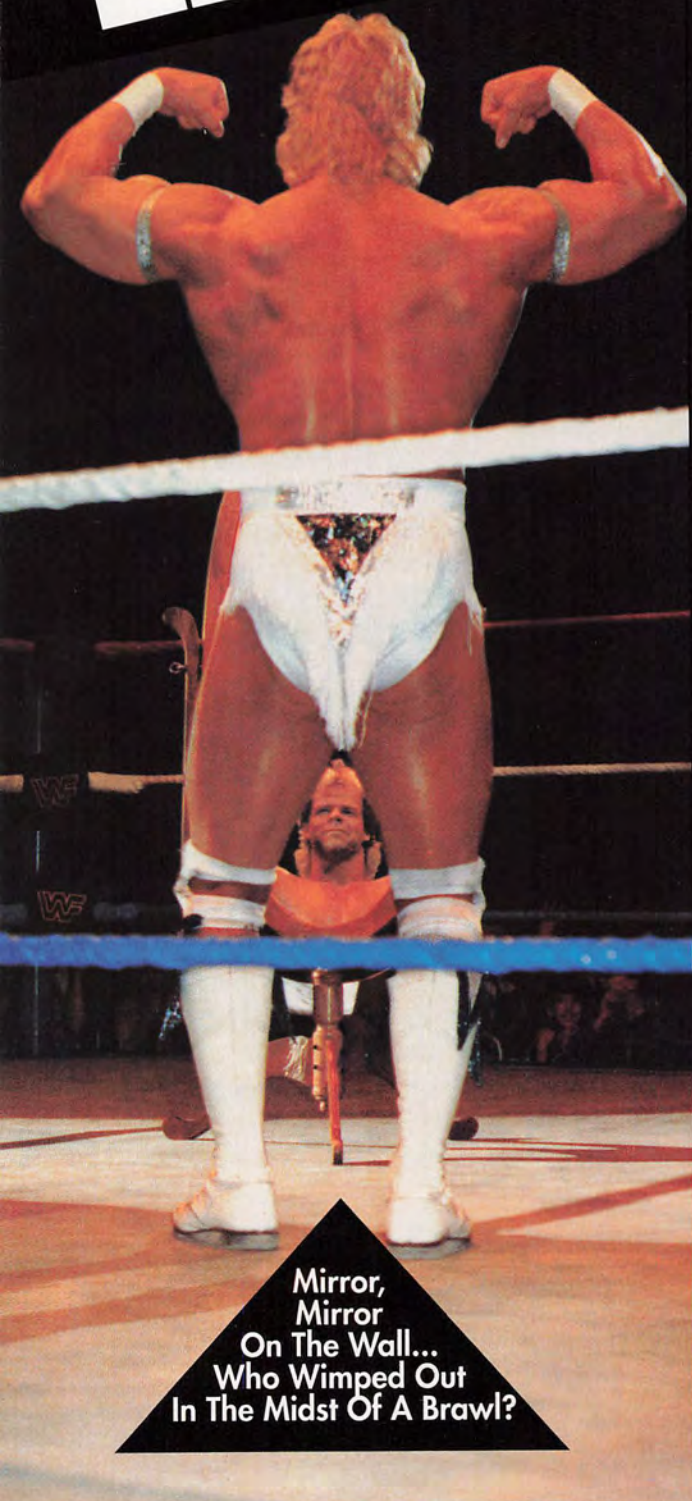
With Douglas hampered by a shoulder injury, The Hollywood Blonds have begun the "Brush With Greatness" tour, in which they are giving lesser teams a shot at the title. Predictably, these teams have had as much success as Steamboat and Douglas. With their confidence at an all-time high, Austin and Pillman agreed to sit down with Senior Writers Dave Rosenbaum, Eddie Ellner, and Chris Bernucca for an interview prior to a TV taping at the Center Stage Theater in Atlanta. The trio of writers was surprised to discover that they were not the only ones who brought recording equipment to the interview.

(Continued on page 52)



By Dave Rosenbaum

LEX LUGER:



Mirror,
Mirror
On The Wall...
Who Wimped Out
In The Midst Of A Brawl?

CONWAR

Mark the date in wrestling history: On April 4, 1993, at WrestleMania IX, Lex Luger ran away from a fight. Yup, he hightailed it right back to the dressing room. Are these the actions of a former World champion? Sure, when that former World champion is Luger!

FLEX LUGER'S a coward, then Yokozuna's thin and Bobby Heenan is taciturn. Luna Vachon's a beauty queen and Vince McMahon is modest. Get the picture? Lex Luger does, every time he looks in his mirror. He sees a man modeled after his ideal human being.

But, hey, where was Luger going? Where was that big, blond musclehead running off to when Curt Hennig and Shawn Michaels brawled in the Caesars Palace parking lot at WrestleMania IX. If Luger really was the better man in his match against Hennig—and the victory, by pinfall while Hennig's legs were on the ropes, was controversial—then why didn't he stay around for the aftermath?

Some narcissist! Luger wimped out in the heat of battle and he knows it. When the going got tough, the tough got running. Now Luger, desperate to save his reputation after several other questionable incidents, is doing everything possi-

ble to wipe out memories of that Las Vegas embarrassment.

He can't get enough of Hennig. Wherever Hennig goes, Luger seems to follow. Unfortunately for Luger, he still can't score a clean pin over Perfect. In fact, Hennig definitely has the edge in their feud.

A wrestler like Luger relies on power, intimidation, and reputation to get the job done. Luger



"Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig pounds away at Lex Luger in the corner at WrestleMania IX (left). Hennig and Luger have been battling all around the country of late, and Hennig has clearly grabbed the upper hand in their feud. After his controversial win at WrestleMania, Luger allowed cohort Shawn Michaels (above) to fight his battle for him when Hennig came looking for the "Narcissist" in the parking lot.



certainly has the power, but his powers of intimidation and reputation took a nasty blow at WrestleMania. Luger was left excusing his actions to acquaintances who couldn't believe he'd leave the scene of any crime.

To recap the incident: Luger pinned Hennig, then knocked him out with a sharp elbow to the forehead. Luger returned to the dressing room area, set up

in a Caesars Palace parking lot, and ran into Michaels along the way. They stopped and talked, unaware Hennig had recovered and was headed in their direction.

Luger has never been the most intelligent wrestler. He had seemingly forgotten about Hennig and didn't realize "Mr. Perfect" would

have the guts to fight his own battles."

Luger deserves a modicum of credit for realizing his error and demanding rematches against Hennig. He deserves no credit, however, for the way he has performed in these rematches. Hennig usually wins by pinfall. Luger seems hesitant to risk scarring his pretty face or breaking a bone. This possibly stems from Luger's WCW days, when he suffered several injuries and often wrestled through incredible pain.

"Luger doesn't seem to want it enough," said Hawk, the former Road Warrior who has been both friend and foe to the 6'5", 290-pounder. "He's willing to go only so far in every match. He'll take slight risks, but not the big ones. To me, that doesn't say much about his potential. If you ask me, Luger's a has-been."

Luger again must learn how to take a licking



eventually return to that same area.

Michaels, however, got in the way of Hennig and the two brawled on the hot, black pavement. Where was Luger? Hightailing his way back to the dressing room. He wanted no part of an obviously incensed Hennig.

"What a fake, phony, and fraud he turned out to be," a WWF rulebreaker said. "First he turns out to be a coward, then it turns out that he's wrestling with a metal bar in his forearm. Big man. Even with a weapon, he doesn't

Hennig prepares to side suplex Luger (above left) and uses his speed and agility to vault over the "Narcissist" (above right). Hennig and Luger are comparable in ability, but if Luger continues to exhibit the cowardice he showed at WrestleMania, he could see Hennig and others leapfrog him in title contention.

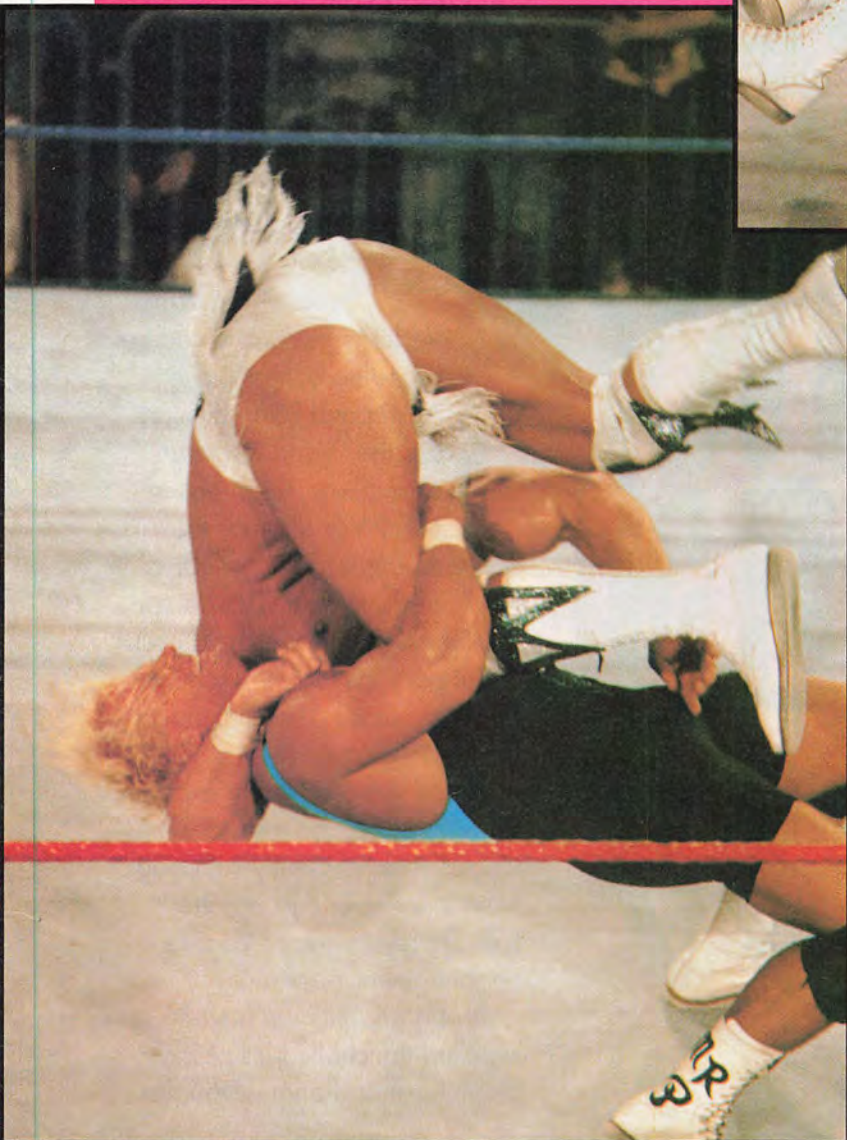
and keep on ticking. Like the Energizer Bunny, he has to keep going and going. Three years ago, few would

have accused Luger of cowardliness. He was willing to take on the most skilled opponents and never backed down from a fight. That's what made Luger's behavior at WrestleMania so peculiar. Heck, maybe he'd learned a lesson or two from Heenan.

Or maybe it's just very hard to jump back on a horse once you get off. Once in the middle of wrestling's heated wars, it's easy for a



A year away from wrestling has left Luger vulnerable to the attacks of well-conditioned veterans like Hennig (above). Perhaps wary that kicks (right) and "perfectplexes" (below) from Hennig could cause serious injury, Luger has become over-cautious.



wrestler to constantly endanger himself. An athlete gets into the flow of competition; risks don't seem as serious.

Luger left the sport for a year, became a bodybuilder, and had a chance to view wrestling from the outside. Perhaps he saw wrestling as it really is: a dangerous sport in which the possibility of injury is always present.

"Luger always wrestled as if he was willing to risk everything," said Hawk. "He didn't care how he won, as long as he won. No danger was too great. That's what made him great. The best wrestlers don't think. They just wrestle and react. Luger's thinking, and when you think, you run. You realize what's possible."

Nothing's possible for cowardly Lex Luger. The "Total Package" has turned totally yellow. He's on a streak ... a yellow streak. □

By Chris Bernucca

WCW FAN FAVORITES CONFESS:

“

WE'RE
FIGHTING
A LOSING
BATTLE!

Rulebreakers have a chokehold on the WCW title picture, and the fan favorites sound like they are ready to submit. Beatings will continue until morale improves!

”

IN ALL SPORTS, trends come and go in cycles. In the 1980s NBA, the Los Angeles Lakers made it chic to run and gun; in the 1990s, a slower pace prevails. In 1980s baseball, free agency dominated; today, teams largely build from within their own farm system. And for the last 15 years, football has bounced back and forth, from raw power to high-tech offense.

Wrestling is no different. In WCW, the successes and failures of both fan favorites and rulebreakers can be easily charted with a sine curve. Currently, however, the rulebreakers are enjoying their turn at the top, and the fan favorites are starting to wonder when the cycle will change.

One needs to look no further than the federation's five championships. As of this writing, rulebreaker Big Van

Vader is the World champion; rulebreakers Steve Austin and Brian Pillman are the World tag team champions; rulebreaker Barry Windham is the

NWA champion; and rulebreaker Paul Orndorff is the TV champion. (The U.S. title was held up.)

But perhaps further examination is required. The contenders for Vader's World title are Sting, who has yet to solve the champion after numerous tries, and Cactus Jack, presently suffering from a series of injuries after falling prey to one of Vader's mighty power bombs.

Austin and Pillman have repelled the challenges of Rick Steamboat and Shane Douglas

and are so bored with their competition that they have begun a "Brush With Greatness" tour, allowing any tag team to take a shot at their belts.

Windham has a firm grip on the NWA belt, especially since Ric Flair seems more interested in being the interviewer rather than the interviewee. And Orndorff, the most vulnerable of the four champions, has withstood Ron Simmons and Cactus Jack during his reign.

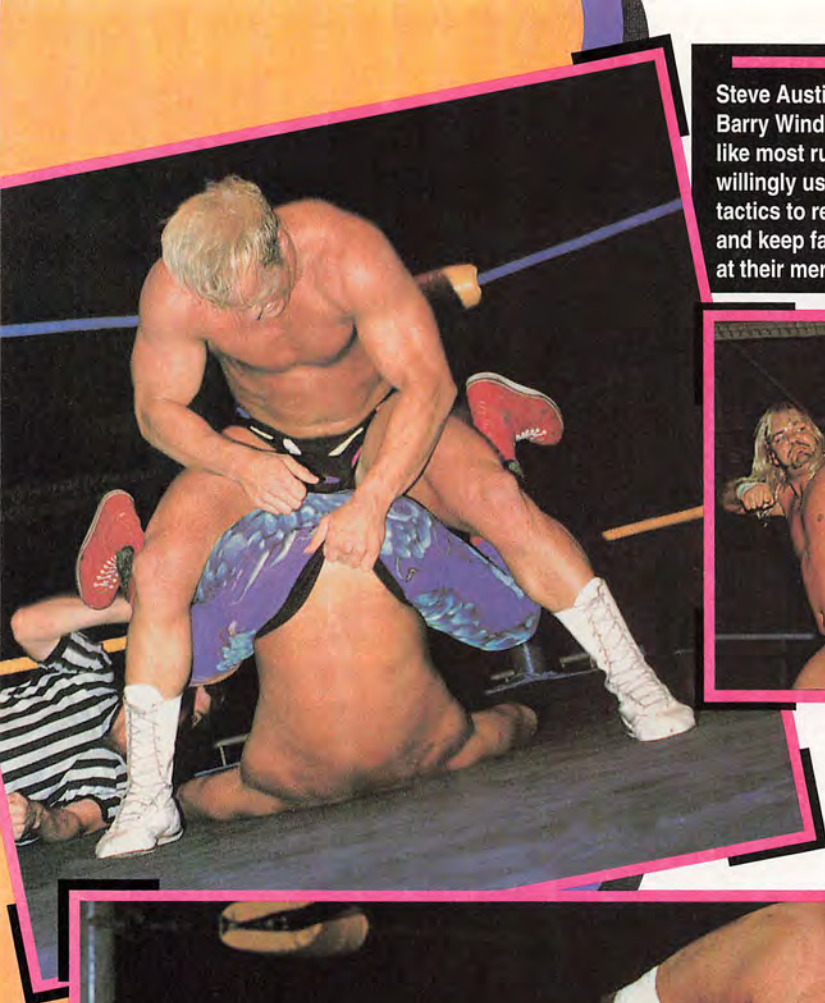
It is clear that WCW fan favorites are slumping, and the end doesn't appear to be in sight.

"We're fighting a losing battle," said Rhodes, whose U.S. title went into vacancy after a controversial finish in a match against Rude. "There's a lot of pressure on me and some of the other guys in this locker room to turn the tide back in our favor. I'm getting more pats on the butt and pep talks than ever before. Guys are looking to me to lift their spirits. I'm not saying I'm not up to it, but I can only do my share. I can't do it alone."

The number of fan favorites is diminishing as well. Pillman and Windham were fan favorites six months ago; they are now rulebreakers—and champions. Cactus Jack came over from "the other side," as the fan favorites like to call it amongst themselves, but he has wrestled without direction and almost paid for it with his career. Arn Anderson has



Wrestlers like Dustin Rhodes and Cactus Jack (top) have the scars to prove that WCW is now dominated by rulebreakers. In some cases, injuries are the result of vicious double-teams by the likes of Paul Orndorff and Rick Rude (above)



Steve Austin (left) and Barry Windham (below), like most rulebreakers, willingly use illegal tactics to retain titles and keep fan favorites at their mercy.



been largely ineffective as a fan favorite, and Davey Boy Smith has yet to make his presence felt.

To be fair, the fan favorites have also been snakebit by injuries. Simmons was out for two months with a shoulder injury. Rhodes had a partially separated shoulder, limiting his action. Douglas has also been sidelined by injury. And Cactus Jack is always nursing some sort of ailment.

But the show must go on. When top-rated wrestlers are on the shelf, someone has to pick up his schedule of matches. There was always plenty of brave volunteers, but the question is: Are they worthy?

People have quietly asked that question of Van Hammer, who has challenged Windham for the NWA title, and 2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Alexander Bagwell, who have had bouts against Pillman and Austin.

"Hammer and Marc have no right being in those matches," said one fan favorite who requested anonymity. "They're fine young wrestlers, but they're just not ready to be title contenders. You've got to move a young talent slowly or you risk damaging their psyche permanently."

But it's more than just being beaten; fan favorites are being beat up as well. With the inherent advantages of being champion, the rulebreakers have set out to maim their opponents, taking disqualification losses in order to get in their licks. Vader has repeatedly said that he is out to destroy



Sting is at the mercy of Big Van Vader's manager Harley Race, as Race chokes him with a leather strap. Rulebreakers like Vader, who holds the WCW heavyweight title, are quick to take disqualification losses if they get the chance to cripple their more popular foes.

(continued on page 50)

close-up:

PAUL ORNDORFF

PAUL ORNDORFF, THE the self-proclaimed "Mr. Wonderful," is indeed a wonderful wrestler and has had a wonderful career ... A former National Football League player for the New Orleans Saints, Orndorff left football to begin a pro wrestling career in 1979 ... The 6', 253-pound muscleman from Brandon, Florida, became known as the "Brandon Bull" when he began wrestling in his home state ... Stardom and success weren't long in coming for this dedicated man ... He teamed with Jimmy Snuka to capture the NWA World tag team belts in 1979 ... In late-1981, feuded in the Mid-South area with then-fan favorite Ted DiBiase ... But when DiBiase became a rulebreaker, Orndorff sympathized with the future "Million Dollar Man" ... Moved to the Georgia area in 1982 and set his sights on the National heavyweight title ... Wasted little time coming through on his mission when, on June 20, 1982, he defeated Buzz Sawyer for the belt ... But Orndorff had bigger things in mind ... During a shocking TV appearance on July 31, 1982, Orndorff retired the belt, saying it took too much time away from preparations for his matches against NWA World champion Ric Flair ... Orndorff returned to Georgia and on October 3, 1982, in Atlanta, regained the belt from Super Destroyer ... Held the belt for only two weeks before losing it to Masked Superstar, then regained the belt from Superstar on November 7, 1982, again in Atlanta ... Defended the title in a series of heated wars against Ivan Koloff and Sawyer, both testy, experienced brawlers ... Enjoyed a four-month reign as Georgia National champion before losing the belt for the final time to Killer Brooks ... Left the Georgia area and went into seclusion, prompting the first of a series of rumors that would follow Orndorff throughout his career: that he was going to quit pro wrestling ... But Orndorff reemerged in late 1983 in the WWF with a different style: as a rulebreaker ... Took on Bobby Heenan as his manager and befriended Roddy Piper ... Orndorff and the "Rowdy Scot" teamed several times ... Became so hated that fans, for the first time, took to calling him "Paula" ... Teamed with Piper to wrestle Hulk Hogan and Mr. T in the main event of the first WrestleMania card, March 31, 1985 ... Bob Orton seconded Piper and Orndorff ... As Orndorff held Hogan, Orton prepared to smash the "Hulkster" with the cast he was wearing on his forearm ... Hogan moved out of the way and Orton clobbered Orndorff, who was easily pinned ... Piper, incensed by the miscue, called Orndorff "Mr. Blunderful" and the two split up ... In a TV appearance reminiscent of his Georgia title retirement, Orndorff publicly fired Heenan ... Befriended Hogan and returned to his old ways as a fan favorite ... The friendship with Hogan caused Orndorff's singles career to stagger, but Orndorff established himself as one of the most popular men in the sport ... In 1986, Orndorff, claiming Hogan didn't return a phone call and had missed several scheduled workouts, turned against the champ ... The act shocked the wrestling world and resulted in an intense series of matches ... One of the first matches in their feud, on "The Big Event" card at Toronto's Exhibition



Stadium, attracted 70,000 fans ... Orndorff never wrestled the belt from Hogan, but drove the "Hulkster" to the limit in several outstanding matches ... Whether it was out of exhaustion or frustration, Orndorff dropped out of the sport entirely in 1987 ... Orton bragged to friends that he drove Orndorff out of wrestling ... Orndorff's disappearance sparked the hottest death rumor since the Paul McCartney fiasco in the late '60s ... Orndorff, as it turned out, was busy operating his bowling alley in Atlanta and gearing up for a return ... After a two-year absence, Orndorff returned in 1989, saying he missed the day-to-day competition ... Made his return on November 17, 1989, in Highland Heights, Ohio, and defeated USWA Texas champion Kerry Von Erich by disqualification ... Wrestled for several months on the independent circuit before returning to WCW ... Joined Sting's "Dudes With Attitudes" and regained

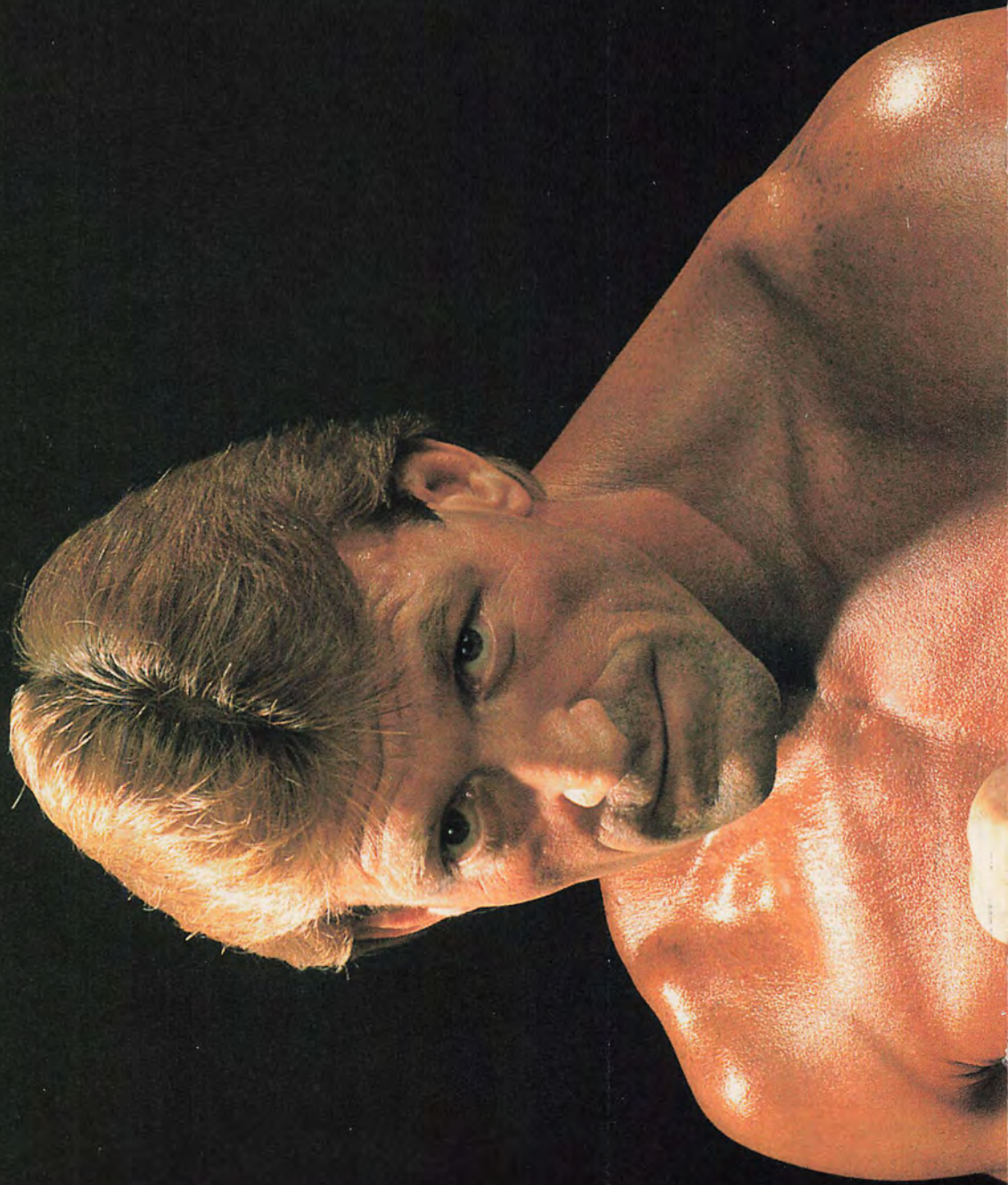
some acclaim as a fan favorite ... Teamed with Junkyard Dog ... Eventually renounced the Dudes, left WCW, joined the UWF, and engaged in a violent feud with Steve "Dr. Death" Williams ... In one match, on November 8, 1990, Williams charged into the ring and blind-sided Orndorff with a chair, leaving him lying in a pool of blood ... Orndorff and Williams headlined the UWF's New York-debut card on January 9 at the Penta Hotel ... The two battled to a bloody double-disqualification ... Wrestled Williams in a lumberjack match that was notable because of Cactus Jack's interference ... Their matches continued to be marred by the interference of Jack and Bob Orton ... Remained a top contender to the UWF's vacant heavyweight title ... Pinned Col. DeBeers in a strap match at the UWF's "Beach Brawl" on June 9, 1991 ... Left the UWF and beat Stan Lane for the fledgling AWF heavyweight title on December 16, 1991, in Lowell, Massachusetts ... Moved on to the new Smoky Mountain Federation in May, 1992, and lost to Brian Lee in the final of a one-night tournament to choose the federation's first

heavyweight champion ... Orndorff reestablished his rulebreaking ways by using a pair of brass knuckles on referee Mark Curtis ... Wrestled Sting on a WCW card on January 10, 1993, in New Orleans, Louisiana ... The 23-minute classic began scientifically, but degenerated into a brawl ... A feud with Cactus Jack started when Jack was snubbed by manager Harley Race, WCW World champion Big Van Vader, and Orndorff ... Jack came after Orndorff with a shovel and interfered in the Thunderdome cage match at Clash of the Champions XXII on January 13 ... Jack broke into the locked cage with boltcutters and attacked Orndorff before pinning him ... The two continued their feud in a brutal falls-count-anywhere match at SuperBrawl III ... Orndorff battled gallantly, but the street-wise Jack had the edge in this street brawl ... Jack again clobbered Orndorff with a shovel and covered him for the pin ... Defeated Erik Watts in the final of the tournament for the vacant WCW TV title on March 2 ... Narrowly escaped with the title on April 21 in Atlanta, when he was pinned by Ron Simmons just after the 10-minute mark in a match where the title was at stake for just those 10 minutes ... As the chants of "Paula" again echo in Orndorff's ear, it's a fair bet "Mr. Wonderful" will somehow land on his feet. □

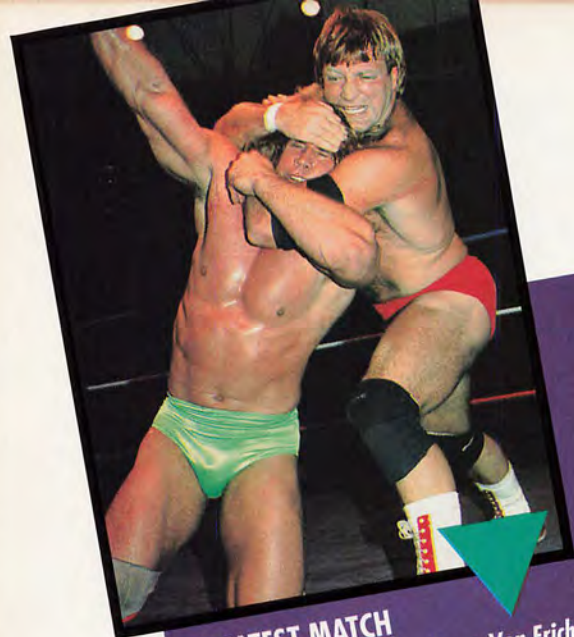
PAUL ORNDORFF

"Mr. Wonderful"

PRO Wrestling
ILLUSTRATED

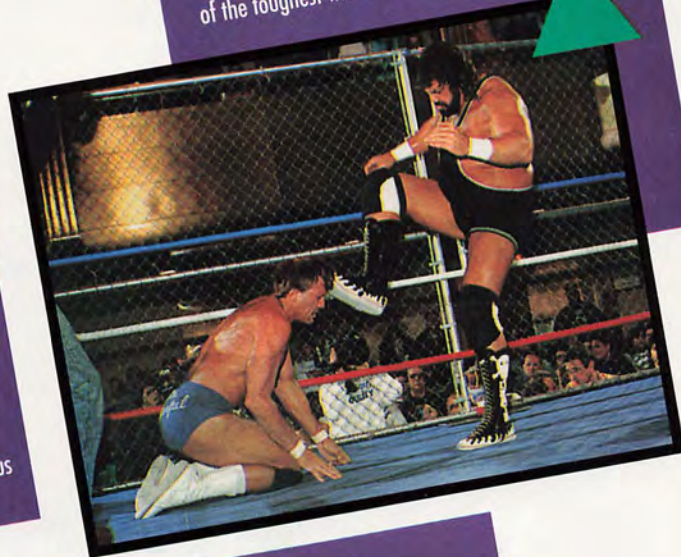






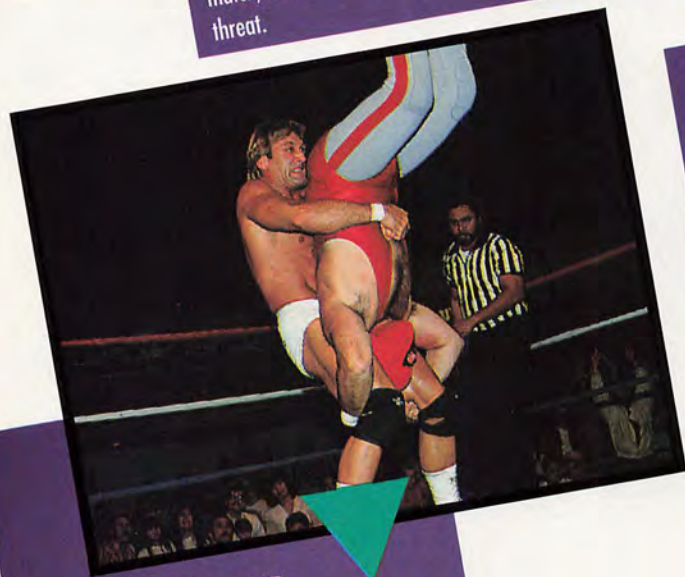
GREATEST MATCH

November 17, 1989 vs. Kerry Von Erich. Orndorff raised more than a few eyebrows when he announced that he was challenging USWA Texas champion and former NWA World champion Kerry Von Erich in his first bout back after a two-year layoff. But the ever-confident "Mr. Wonderful" turned in one of the surprise performances of the year by outwrestling Von Erich and winning by disqualification. In one match, Orndorff had reestablished himself as a serious threat.



TOUGHEST OPPONENT

Steve Williams. The two feuded long and hard in the UWF for nearly eight months in 1991. Their battles were marred by outside interference, but "Dr. Death" and "Mr. Wonderful" never quenched their hatred for each other. In one match, Williams blindsided Orndorff with a chair and left him lying in a pool of blood. Orndorff never solved Williams, one of the toughest wrestlers in the world.



FAVORITE MANEUVER

The piledriver. Orndorff executes this maneuver with such verve, zest, and force that it takes on new potentially crippling consequences. Orndorff boasts that he has ended several careers with his piledriver, and there's no reason to doubt him. His piledriver was far more feared in the mid-1980s than it is now, but it can still change the gameplan of a careful opponent.

MOST HATED OPPONENT

Bob Orton. You could easily count the number of times they've actually wrestled, but the Orton-Orndorff feud goes back a long way. In 1985, Orton's interference in the WrestleMania I main event led to Orndorff's breakup with Roddy Piper. Two years later, Orton boasted that he ran Orndorff out of wrestling. In 1991, Orton often interfered in the Williams-Orndorff matches. Orton and Orndorff are apart now, but don't be surprised if their feud eventually resumes.



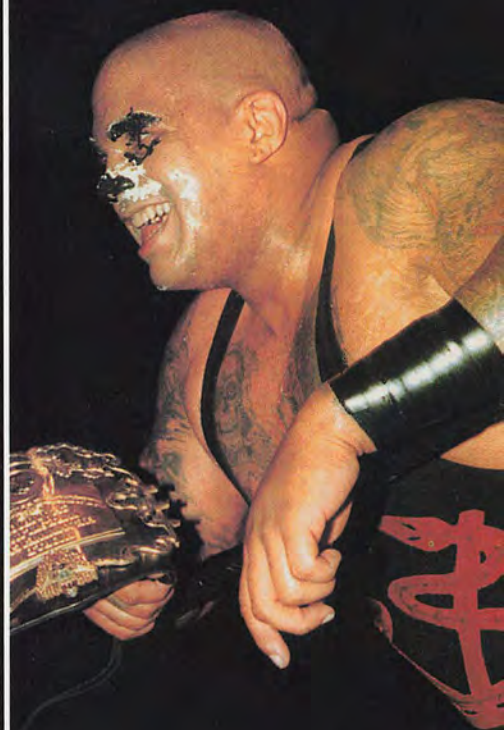
WHO'S USING WHOM?

By Dave Rosenbaum **BEHIND
THE BIZARRE**

**SHERRI-
SHANGO**

alliance

The unprecedented cooperation between the WWF and the USWA spawned an unlikely event when a WWF wrestler won the USWA heavyweight title. **Papa Shango** has the belt, thanks to **Sensational Sherri**, but who gained the most from this strange pairing?





Jerry Lawler executes his infamous piledriver on Randy Savage as Sensational Sherri interferes. After Sherri herself was stung by a piledriver, she sought revenge, and the Sherri-Papa Shango union was soon formed.

WHEN YOU'RE ON the downside of a stint in a major federation—the WWF, for instance...who ya gonna call?

When your men keep leaving you and the new man you want won't even glance your way...who ya gonna call?

And when you're an up-and-coming, arrogant independent federation wrestler who can't seem to catch a break...who ya gonna call?

We admit this *Ghostbusters* theme is a bit old, but it really seems to fit. For a solid week, the editors and reporters of *PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED* tried to unravel the bizarre Papa Shango-Sensational Sherri alliance (Scotty Flamingo was a bystander) that shook up WWF/USWA relations.

For the first time, a WWF wrestler—Shango—won another federation's title. It happened when Shango defeated USWA champion Jerry Lawler on May 3 at Mid-South

Coliseum in Memphis. What we couldn't figure out was who benefited most from the Shango-Sherri alliance. Too much of it didn't make sense.

Why would Sherri, a budding fan favorite in the WWF, risk her status by butting heads with Lawler, the most popular wrestler in Memphis history?

Why would Shango want to win a title that effectively takes him out of the WWF mainstream?

Why would these two unstable individuals, who never before had anything to do with each other, get together, even if it was only a one-night stand? Shango isn't exactly Sherri's type of man (who knows if Sherri is Shango's type of woman?).

Which way does the balance of benefits swing? In other words, who's using whom?

After a week of thinking, we finally got down to action. We thoroughly investigated all the possibilities and came to these conclusions:

Shango, desperate for a positive event, needed any kind of big win. Lawler, who works part-time as a WWF commentator, seemed a good target. Lawler isn't just any independent wrestler. He's also

Shango sends Lawler into the ropes. The voodoo master needed a career boost in the worst way, and Sherri furnished him with that and more in Memphis. She apparently arranged for Scotty Flamingo to interfere in the USWA title bout.

a WWF star!

Sherri, bruised, beaten, and embarrassed—a week after getting piledriven by Lawler—hunted for a way to get revenge. She came upon Shango, a certified job-hunting manic who had been humbled by Tatanka (the man Sherri initially wanted after getting dumped by Shawn Michaels).

This now gets a little confusing. Sherri made it clear to Shango she wasn't looking for a love relationship. Even Sherri wouldn't want to get involved with a voodoo-loving lunatic who's been known to put nasty spells on his enemies—although it might give Luna Vachon something to ponder should she and Sherri ever settle their feud in the ring.

Sherri said to Shango, "I know a title you can win, but you can only do it with my help." She worked quickly. With very little time on her hands, Sherri used her influence on WWF officials to get Shango on the USWA



Lawler comes crashing to the canvas by way of a Shango bodyslam. "The King's" USWA dominance took a similar nose dive when he fell victim to one of wrestling's unholy



card. Once that was done, the plan went into motion.

Flamingo, who teamed with Sherri the previous week in a mixed match against Lawler and Miss Texas, accompanied Shango to the ring. Sherri was nowhere to be found, either at the arena or in Memphis.

"Word is that she was back home waiting for a phone call from Flamingo," a source said. "A little while later I saw Flamingo make a call from a pay phone. All he said was, 'It's done,' and then he hung up and walked away."

Early in the Shango-Lawler match, Flamingo climbed onto the ring apron. Lawler went to push him off and Shango snuck up behind Lawler. "The King" heard footsteps, turned quickly, and shot a fireball at Shango. Lawler and Flamingo continued fighting while Shango grabbed his face in pain.

When Flamingo argued with referee Frank Morell, Lawler turned

and saw Shango shaking off the effects of the fireball. Shango went into his corner, pulled out his skull, and shot fire at Lawler, burning his eyebrows. Shango followed it up with a bulldog headlock and then dropped Lawler for the pin.

"The match should've been stopped when Flamingo interfered," Lawler protested, seemingly ignoring that he should have been disqualified for throwing fire at Shango. "I thought I would get a better call from a hometown referee."

For once, he didn't. When the fire and smoke cleared, here's how the ledger read for May 3:

Lawler lost his title.

Shango, a loser for months, had the USWA belt.

Sherri had revenge.

Flamingo had nothing but an IOU.

Maybe Sherri can use her WWF influence to help Flamingo. Maybe not.

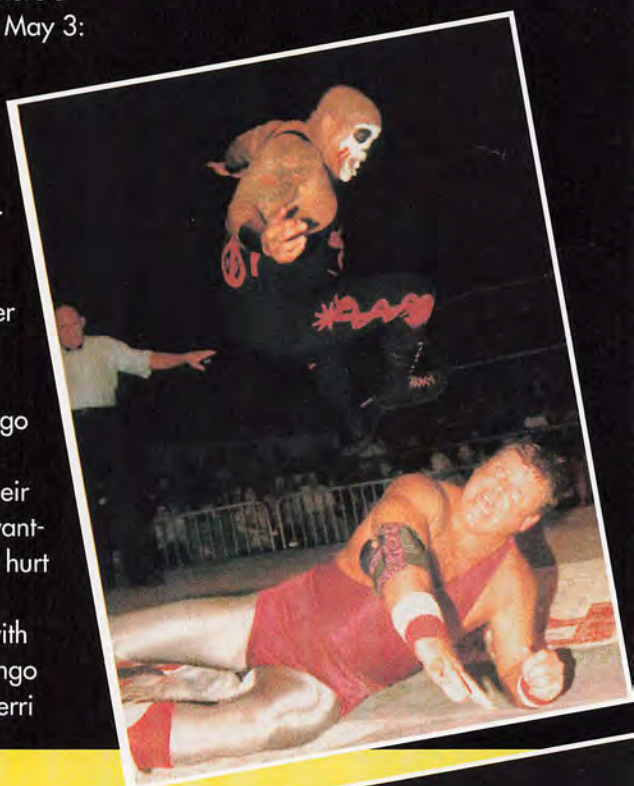
The big losers were Flamingo and Lawler, who watched as Shango took the title out of their home federation. Flamingo wanted to hurt Lawler, but he also hurt himself.

That leaves two winners, with Sherri the bigger by far. Shango was helped by Sherri, but Sherri

used Shango. She got revenge without risking injury, and may have inadvertently dealt a severe blow to Shango's WWF career. He now has no choice but to defend the USWA title; all hopes of a WWF resurgence seem unrealistic.

The lesson: Sherri is always out for herself. Aligning with her is a big mistake. Everyone will win if Sherri and Luna destroy each other.

Shango is a magician, but Sherri successfully cast her spell. Enjoy your title, Papa. Mama knows best. □



Shango prepares to deliver a flying elbowsmash (above right), then uses a bulldog headlock (right) to seize Lawler's title. Sherri, however, emerged as the ultimate victor in the whole scenario.



By BILL APTER

SUPERSTAR SUMMIT:

STING AND HOGAN SAID IT, PWI REVEALS IT!

WWF World champion Hulk Hogan and former WCW champion Sting had never wrestled on the same card until May 3 in Japan.

But it was a private post-match party that really made news, when Sting and Hogan sat down for a private tete-a-tete





THE PARTY WAS by invitation only, very exclusive, very private. The public part of the evening took place earlier with an incredible card of international wrestling and a party for VIPs, sponsors, fans, and wrestlers that often seemed more like a shopping mall appearance.

Ah, but if they could have seen what the jet set saw just hours later. There, at a table for two in a corner of a room, sat the two most famous wrestlers in the world: Hulk Hogan and Sting!

You read it right—Hogan and Sting, the premier fan favorites of the WWF and WCW, respectively.

They broke bread, shared a drink, and spoke quietly. They sat for over an hour, and nobody dared bother them out of fear that this Superstar Summit would come to an end before something, anything, was resolved. When, well after midnight, they parted by shaking hands and walking off in opposite directions, the 20 or so people in the room stood and clapped.

Hogan looked shocked by the reaction, as if he expected to not get noticed. Sting turned, shot Hogan a smile, and joined the applause.

"I don't think that's for you, buddy," Sting said. "That's for us. I think we just made news."

Actually, the Sting-Hogan Superstar Summit would have gone completely unreported if *PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED* correspondent Koichi Yoshizawa hadn't been invited to the party. He remained unobtrusive, well aware nothing natural ever happens when reporters are on hand, enjoyed the company, and walked into a



Sting kicked his way to a bloody win over Scott Norton on the "Wrestling Dontaku" card in Fukuoka, Japan. Now a match pitting WCW's Sting against WWF champion Hulk Hogan seems much more than a pipe dream.

gigantic news event and a gigantic news story.

"I think they planned to talk," Yoshizawa said. "The moment Sting and Hogan saw each other, they walked over to the table and sat down. It all seemed very amiable, very pleasant. They acted like old friends, although I don't think they ever met each other before."

Indeed. According to *PWI* files, it was the first time Sting and Hogan appeared on the same card. The blessed event was "Wrestling Dontaku" on May 3 at the Fukuoka Dome in Japan. A crowd of about 55,000, most of them Japanese tourists who arrive each year for the Hakata Dontaku festival, jammed into the stadium for a star-packed card that included Brutus Beefcake, Mr. Saito, Jushin Liger, Tiger Mask, Scott Norton, IWGP champion The Great Muta, the legendary Antonio Inoki, Tatsumi Fujinami, Riki Choshu, and

Genichiro Tenryu.

Sting and Hogan, too.

Believe it or not, Sting and Hogan weren't the main attractions on the card. While these two superstars are hugely popular in Japan, fans there tend to support their own. Instead, the card had international implications for the future of wrestling in North America. After all, if the WWF and USWA can get together—if the WWF's Papa Shango can win the USWA title from Jerry Lawler—then why not a Sting and Hogan alliance?

It now seems so possible. Check out our cover photo of Hogan and Sting shaking hands. There's genuine respect in their eyes; the handshakes are firm. Consider their post-match party meeting: When Sting and Hogan saw each other, they didn't head off in opposite directions. They went toward each other. They were friendly, but spoke in

guarded whispers.

"There was respect because Hogan knows how big Sting is and Sting knows how big Hogan is," said Norton. "They weren't intimidated by each other. I guess big stars will always have something in common, even if they wrestled in rival federations."

Sting wouldn't comment on the meeting, but he later confided to friends that he and Hogan spoke of wrestling's enormous potential in a perfect world.

"They talked about wiping out the political boundaries, maybe someday wrestling each other, and establishing one unified champion," a source said. "[WWF head Vince] McMahon would've had a coronary if he'd heard some of the things they talked about."

At the core, Hogan and Sting are ath-



Hulk Hogan battles IWGP champion The Great Muta outside the ring (above). He went on to pin Muta. Later, Hogan and manager Jimmy Hart met the Japanese press (below). Hogan's meeting with Sting was very private. The two megastars might meet in a much more public forum if they get their way and can organize an interederation card or even unify the two major world titles.

letes. They desire fame and fortune, but their overwhelming thirst is for competition. Their competitive desires can be satisfied only with victories over the biggest and best opponents in the world.

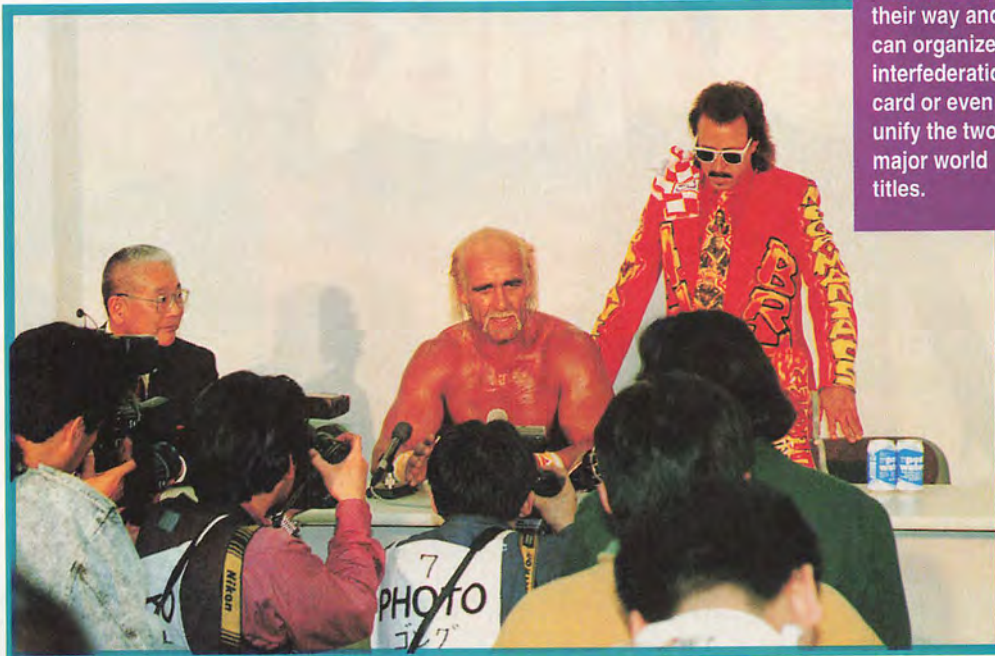
"No big news came out of this," the source said. "The only thing that happened is they agreed to somehow find a way to get the two federations together for a big card. I think Hogan and Sting would really like to wrestle each other, but that doesn't mean it's ever going to happen."

They're getting closer. In the sixth match on the card, Sting and Norton battled to a no-contest; the referee stopped it because Norton was bleeding terribly from the forehead. In the ninth match, Hogan pinned Muta. Neither Hogan's WWF World title nor Muta's IWGP belt was on the line.

Sting and Hogan

were within an hour of making history. Wouldn't it have been something if Hogan and Sting, thousands of miles from home, had decided to forget about their alliances and wrestled an impromptu match?

Suddenly, it doesn't seem so unrealistic. Wrestling is changing before our eyes. The world is shrinking. So is the wrestling world. □



THE NIGHTSTALKER EXPLODES IN THE WWF:

By Dave Lenker

KEVIN SULLIVAN IGNITES AN ADAM BOMB!

Kevin Sullivan's creation became his biggest enemy. Now the WWF must pay for what Sullivan has wrought. The Nightstalker has arrived in the WWF! He's known as Adam Bomb, and his impact could be explosive





Manager Johnny Polo is detonating a violent new force in the WWF in protegee Adam Bomb. Kevin Sullivan survived the Bomb's devastating impact when he was known as The Nightstalker in Smoky Mountain. Their relationship there started out friendly, but a series of misunderstandings made them the bitterest of enemies.

FAR BEYOND THE deepest, darkest recesses of the most evil man's mind, you would expect to find a modicum of decency, respect, or even concern for what he has wrought. In the case of Kevin Sullivan, you would be disappointed.

He has no respect for an opponent who fought the good fight, or decency after the match is over, or concern for how their battle might affect others. There is only hatred and more evil, especially when it comes to The Nightstalker.

"He ran from me with his tail between his legs," Sullivan said, his pupils dilating, the whites of his eyes strangely darkening. "He deserves whatever he gets, and anybody who can't deal with him deserves whatever they get. There is a way of dealing with this man. I know the secret. Nobody is going to find out what I know."

These are chilling words, and not only because of the viciousness and brutality of the Sullivan-Nightstalker feud in the Smoky Mountain area. The words are chilling because The Nightstalker has arrived in the WWF. The reasons for his arrival are unclear, but it must have something to do with Sullivan.

"A lot of the wrestlers have commented that he seems to be hiding from something," WWF expert Thomas Pilliard said. "I don't know if that's true, but a frightened man can be especially dangerous. Nightstalker arrived at his most volatile time and the results could be positively explosive!"

The details of The Nightstalker's recent past will never be revealed on a WWF telecast. He is in the federation



The brutal Sullivan-Nightstalker matches in Smoky Mountain only occasionally remained within the confines of the ring (left). No wrestler dared try to settle the disputes between this savage pair. The Nightstalker, a.k.a. Adam Bomb, has shown little mercy for his weak WWF competition (below), and Sullivan has warned that only he knows how to destroy him.

gusted Sullivan later listened as Tasmaniac blamed Nightstalker for the loss.

"He was right," Sullivan said. "The Stalker wasn't paying attention and he wasn't ready when things didn't go as planned."

Two weeks later, Lee wrestled Sullivan in a "Singapore Spike" match. Nightstalker and Horner were handcuffed to opposite ringposts to prevent interference, but it hardly prevented the Stalker from getting involved.

At one point, Stalker pulled a spike from a box and refused to hand it to Sullivan. While the two

with a new name, Adam Bomb, and with a new manager, Johnny Polo. But for 16 months, Sullivan and The Nightstalker were friends, allies in a mysterious war against good.

They were joined by an equal immunity to pain, a fascination with the dark side, and whatever other strange quirks drive a team of maniacs. Then, very quickly, their alliance was shattered.

The first signs of a breakup appeared on March 22, when Sullivan and Nightstalker wrestled Brian Lee and Tim Horner. Horner had Nightstalker pinned when the Tasmaniac climbed onto the top rope. Lee grabbed Horner out of the way, as the Tasmaniac accidentally splashed Nightstalker. Horner scored the easy pin, and a dis-





argued, Lee snuck up from behind and rolled up Sullivan for the pin. That set off the first of the Sullivan-Stalker brawls.

"Those guys meant business," Lee said. "You could see there was no getting between them, and nobody wanted to. Besides, it made sense to let them beat each other. Who really cared what happened to them?"

If nothing else, the Nightstalker-Sullivan matches made for great publicity and incredible excitement. It was clear from the start neither man cared who won; this feud was measured in pints, not pins, and most of the matches were fought to double-countouts.

The ring was the safest place to be. Nightstalker and Sullivan battled down the aisles, into the seats, near the refreshment stands, and anywhere they possibly could. When their matches stopped resembling wrestling—and that happened in a hurry—promoters scheduled more of them.

Sullivan entangles The Nightstalker in a rope outside the ring. When their feud recently came to a head, Sullivan claimed that The Nightstalker fled to avoid further punishment at his hands. He figures to take out his frustration in new territories, on WWF foes.

And then, just as soon as they started, the matches stopped. The Nightstalker took off, left Sullivan and SMW behind, and started a new life with a new name in a new federation. Adam Bomb is an appropriate moniker for a man who was on the verge of exploding in SMW.

"He just plain couldn't take any more," Sullivan said. "But the fact is that Stalker's one tough wrestler, and he isn't

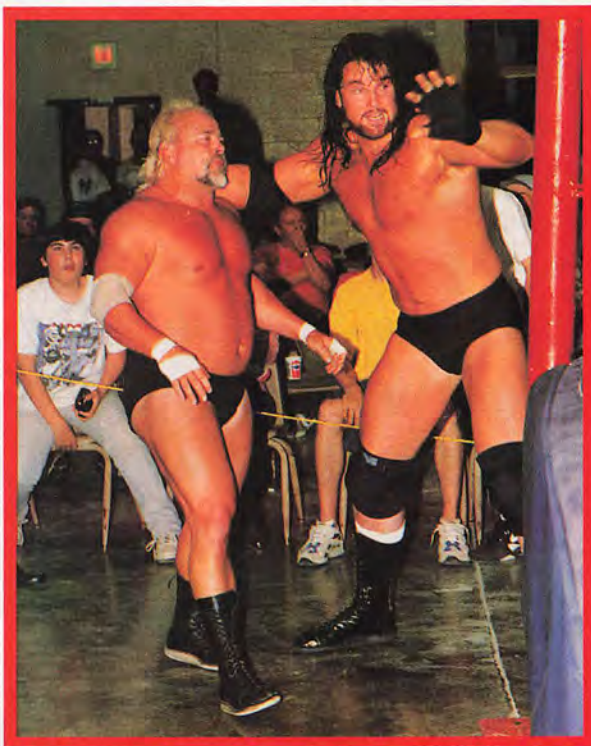
The Nightstalker reads Sullivan's face for an up-close meeting with a steel ring post. His clashes with Sullivan should prepare him for a rapid climb up the WWF ladder, because a man of his anger and talent is a threat to all competition.

afraid of anyone except me. I don't think people have any idea what kind of damage he can cause. Anyone who messes with him is asking for trouble, but like I said, don't call me. My number is unlisted."

Adam Bomb must feel he has something to prove. He was overshadowed by the veteran Sullivan in SMW, and needed a way to break out of that trap. He'll be forced to work his way up from the bottom in the WWF, but quick progress isn't unusual for a talented wrestler with tremendous desire.

"SMW to the WWF is a big jump, but this guy's coming in on a roll," Pilliard said. "There's nothing more dangerous than an angry wrestler, and he sure does seem to have a chip on his shoulder. Who knows? Maybe Sullivan's up to something. It's definitely possible that Sullivan wanted to make Nightstalker ready for this move."

The Bomb is ticking in the WWF. The impact could be devastating. □



**WCW FAN
FAVORITES
CONFESS:**

**"WE'RE
FIGHTING
A LOSING
BATTLE!"**

Rhodes (below, in a Rude armlock) and Sting (bottom) are both trying to recover from injuries. They promise it is only a matter of time before the current cycle ends, and fan favorites again prevail in WCW.



(continued from page 34)

Sting. Orndorff and Rude have double-teamed Rhodes. Pillman and Austin have used their championship belts as lethal weapons against Douglas. This behavior only exacerbates the demoralization currently permeating the locker room of the fan favorites.

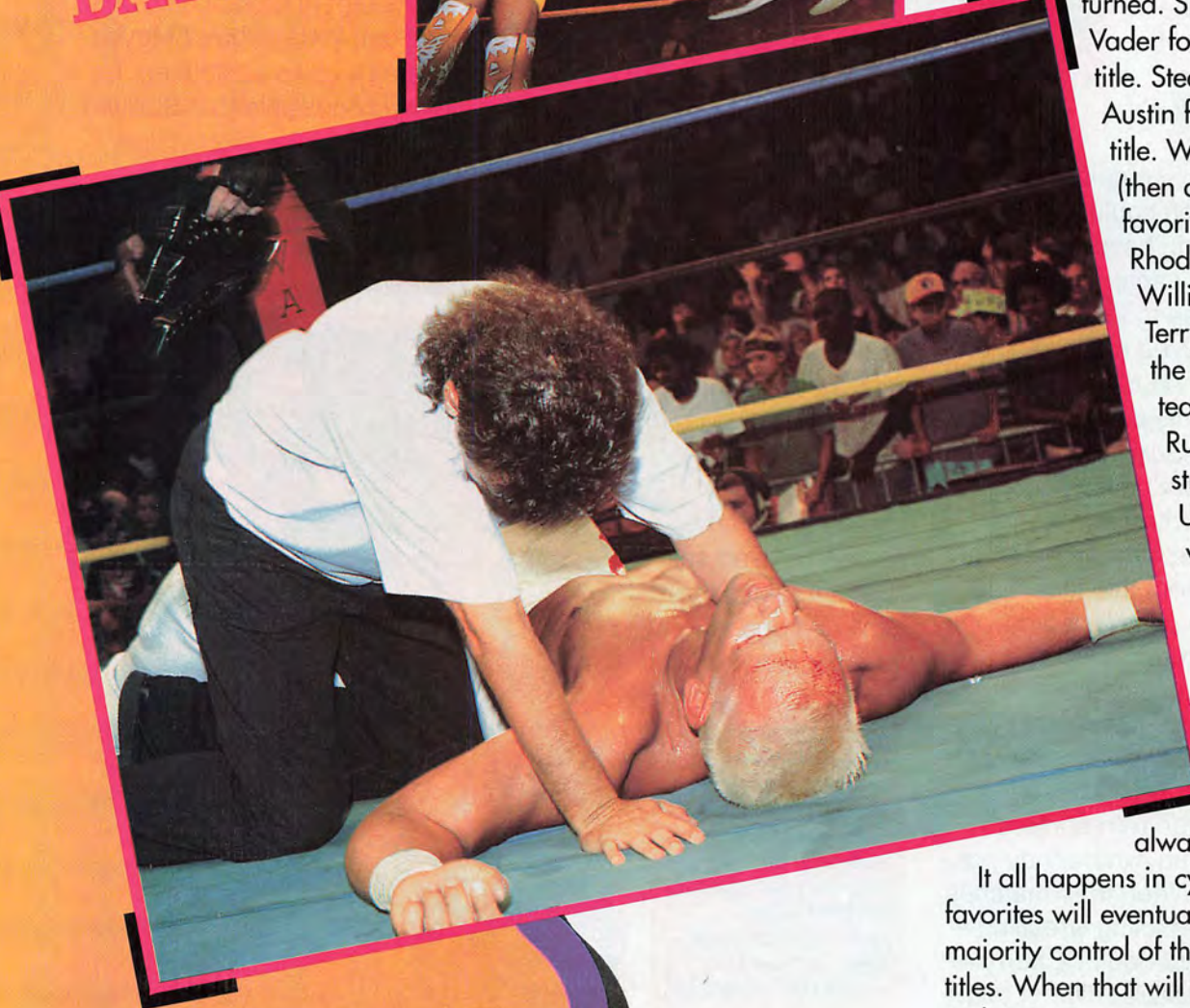
"Why should we ease up?" offers Orndorff. "That's a sign of weakness. You don't get to be champion by being weak."

The fan favorites were in this very same position just one year ago. Shortly after Bill Watts began his reign as WCW vice president, all four major titles were held by rulebreakers (the NWA title did not exist at that

time). Slowly, the tide turned. Simmons beat Vader for the World title. Steamboat beat Austin for the TV title. Windham (then a fan favorite) and Rhodes beat Steve Williams and Terry Gordy for the World tag team title. And Rude was stripped of the U.S. heavy-weight title.

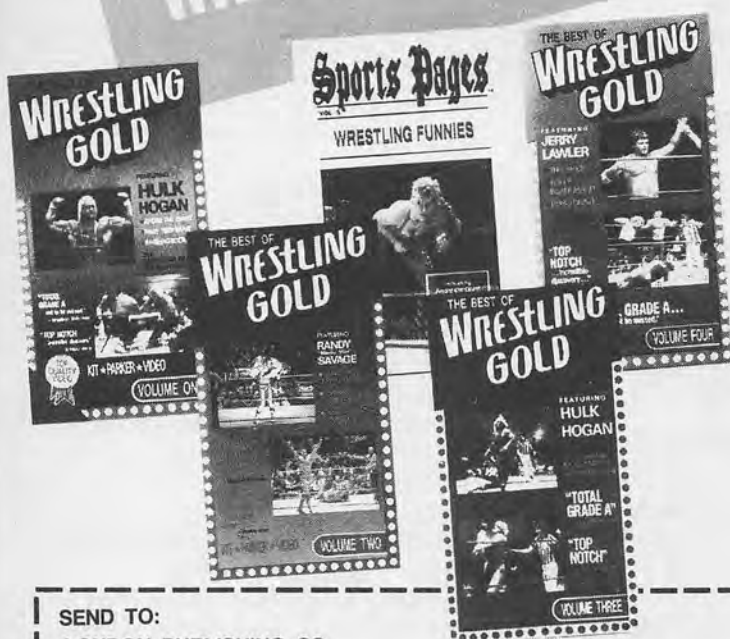
"Yeah, they're on top now," said Sting. "But we'll come back. We always do."

It all happens in cycles. The fan favorites will eventually regain majority control of the federation's titles. When that will happen is up to them. □



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press conference

DAVE ROSENBAUM: Hey, what's with the video camera?

BRIAN PILLMAN: You guys record all of your interviews, don't you?

ROSENBAUM: Of course. But we do it so we have a record of everything that's said.

PILLMAN: So do we. We're



A hammering forearm from Brian Pillman makes 2 Cold Scorpio grimace. The Hollywood Blonds claim Scorpio and Marcus Bagwell will be taught a lot during the Blonds' "Brush With Greatness" tour.

thinking about doing a documentary on the greatest tag team of all-time, and we want to include some behind-the-scenes stuff.

STEVE AUSTIN: Yeah, we're going to call it, "Sex, Lies, and Videotape."

EDDIE ELLNER: Great title, guys.

CHRIS BERNUCCA: That title's already taken, Ellner. Besides, where's the sex? Maybe you should just call it "Lies And Videotape." Dave and I will leave, and you can sit down with Ellner. You can provide the videotape, and he can provide the lies.

PILLMAN: Hey, you guys pushed for this interview, not us.

ELLNER: That's right, Bernucca.

There you go again, trying to end an interview before it starts.

AUSTIN: (peering into camera) Does my hair look okay?

ROSENBAUM: It looks fine. Let's start at the beginning. How did you guys decide to get together?

PILLMAN: Like everything we decide, it was a mutual agreement. I was sick of getting the runaround from the federation bigwigs about the light heavyweight title.

AUSTIN: And I was sick of getting the runaround about the TV title.

PILLMAN: Will you just let me answer the question?

AUSTIN: Who's stopping you?

PILLMAN: You are! (Pillman stands as if to challenge Austin. The two argue chest-to-chest for several minutes before resolving their differences with a hug and a handshake.)

BERNUCCA: Do you believe this?

ROSENBAUM: This is wrestling, Chris. I believe anything. Besides, it's all on film, isn't it? Fellows, let's get back to the ques-

tion.

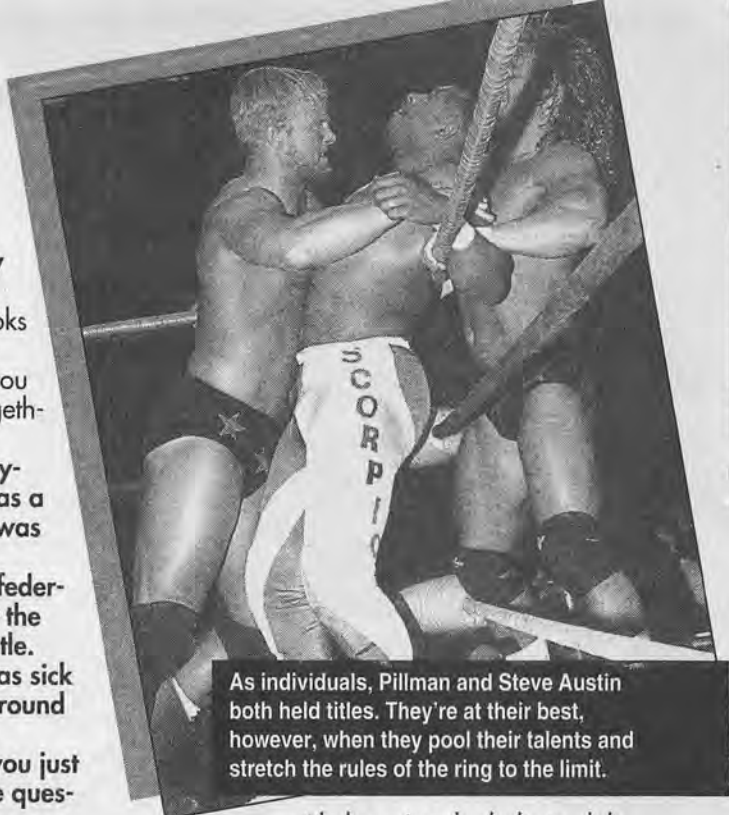
PILLMAN: Oh, yeah. Sorry. Anyway, we were both mad about not being able to wrestle for our old titles, so we decided to put our talents together and go after the tag team title.

AUSTIN: We didn't see much competition there, you know? I mean, Rick Steamboat's a good wrestler, even though he might be past his prime. But Shane Douglas? Come on. He was the weak link, and we went right after him.

ELLNER: And the strategy worked to perfection, didn't it?

AUSTIN: Yeah, it did. I guess you could call their title loss "Falling Down." (laughs)

BERNUCCA: And I guess you could call your walk in the victory circle "Unlawful Entry." You guys won the



As individuals, Pillman and Steve Austin both held titles. They're at their best, however, when they pool their talents and stretch the rules of the ring to the limit.

title by using the belts to clobber Douglas. What kind of victory is that?

PILLMAN (angry): Look, fool! Illegal doesn't mean you can't do it. It means you can't get caught doing it. Fan favorites wrestle under some invisible, outdated code. That's why I left that sorry lot. They talk about pride, and integrity, and all that other stuff. You know what? It doesn't mean squat unless you have the belt around your waist.

AUSTIN: May I?

PILLMAN: Of course.

AUSTIN: Let Sting be known as the people's champion, or Ron Simmons, or whoever. Brian and I want to be known as the World tag team champions. This isn't "Rocky." This is real life, and in real life, nobody likes a loser.

ELLNER: You hear that, Bernucca?

BERNUCCA: Yes, Eddie. In fact, I was about to ask you the same thing. Let's get back to Steamboat and Douglas. You beat them by using the belts and injured Douglas in the process. So you really haven't wrestled them at full strength. When are you going to give them the chance?

AUSTIN: That's their problem, not ours. If Douglas isn't healthy, maybe he should take some time away from the ring and get healthy. He looked pretty healthy to me when he interfered in our match and tried to hit us with that suitcase.

PILLMAN: They couldn't beat us as



Although Pillman and Austin don't always see eye-to-eye inside or outside the ring, they remain united in their efforts to retain their belts at all costs.

themselves, so they started wearing masks, as if that was going to scare us. Masks! Have you ever heard of such a ridiculous idea?

ROSENBAUM: Now that you mention it, I do recall a...

PILLMAN (interrupting): Never mind that! We beat them, and you guys say we broke the rules. We beat them again, and you guys say they're not totally healthy. You guys are a bunch of big babies, just like them. We should call this interview "The Crying Game."

ELLNER: Never mind them, guys. We know Steamboat is one of the "Dos Hombres." But it appears that there's more than two. Who do you think they are?

PILLMAN: To tell you the truth, we really don't care. Masks or no masks, we still beat them.

AUSTIN: Yeah. Besides, if there's three of them, shouldn't they be called "The Three Amigos"? (laughs)

ROSENBAUM: Very funny. Why do you bill yourselves as The Hollywood Blondes? Everyone knows Brian is from Cincinnati, Ohio.

PILLMAN: I bet you didn't know that I have a condo in West Hollywood.

BERNUCCA: So what? All of you guys have condos in Atlanta, too! But you're not introduced as being from Atlanta.

AUSTIN: You see? This is what you guy do all the time. You try to attack our performance in the ring, but

when we win the title, you can't do that anymore. So you start nitpicking with stupid stuff that doesn't even matter. Don't answer the question, Brian.

PILLMAN: No, I'm gonna answer it. I am from Cincinnati, Ohio, and I do have

a condo in Atlanta. I also have a condo in West Hollywood. I like to go there when I need to get away from idiots like you and the suits at WCW. I also need a place to stay when I'm in Hollywood, and Steve and me have been in Hollywood a lot lately.

ROSENBAUM: For what?

AUSTIN: For none of your business, that's what.

PILLMAN: Let's just say we know that there's life after wrestling.

ELLNER: You guys aren't thinking about retiring already, are you?

AUSTIN: No, we don't have enough money yet. At least for the way we want to live, we don't.

PILLMAN: We go first class all the way, and for that, we need "Brewster's Millions."

ROSENBAUM: That was a terrible movie to match your terrible attitude. There's more to life than money.

AUSTIN: Yeah? Like what? You know who says there's more to life than money? Poor people, that's

who! People like you and Steamboat and Douglas, who don't get what they want! We want fame and fortune, we don't make any excuses, and we'll do anything to get it!

BERNUCCA: How refreshing. Let's talk about this "Brush With Greatness" tour. Where did you guys come up with this brainstorm? It sounds like you're just giving a fancy title to matches that would otherwise have very little interest.

AUSTIN (laughs): Hey, you're not so dumb after all.

PILLMAN: There's more to it than that. We proved that we could handle Steamboat and Douglas, or Steamboat and whoever his partner of the moment may be. Plus, we were bored, and we were losing our edge. If you wrestle the same team all the time, you wrestle the same way all the time. Different opponents require different strategies. So we figured we'd give title shots to teams like 2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Bagwell, who would otherwise never get a shot at the title. Do they deserve it? Of course not! You said so yourself.

AUSTIN: It benefits them more than us, because we have nothing to learn from them, but they have plenty to learn from us.

PILLMAN: Just call us "Teachers"!

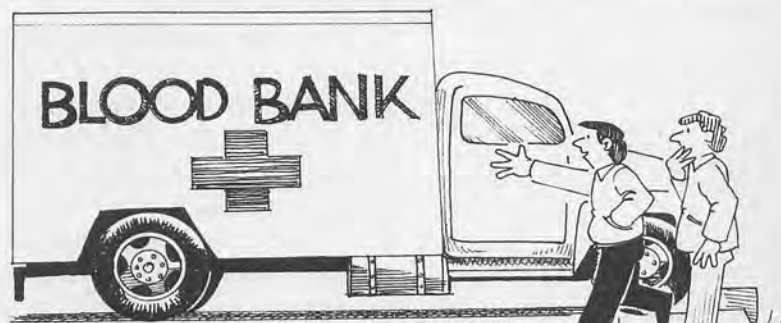
BERNUCCA: If Douglas gets healthy, are you going to give him and Steamboat another title shot?

AUSTIN: We don't feel like we have anything left to prove, but we probably will anyway.

ELLNER: Why?

PILLMAN: Because we want to show them another film—"Damage."

AUSTIN: Cut! That's a wrap. □



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BETWEEN FALLS

(Continued from page 9)

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MATT LAWRENCE

Dover, MA

HEAR IT FOR HULK

The WWF World title belt is back where it should be—around the waist of Hulk Hogan! He's popularized wrestling more than anyone since Gorgeous George, so it's only fitting he should be back on top. Who really wants to see that rulebreaker Yokozuna and his silly manager? Hey, Mr. Fuji, save that salt for the sushi.

Enjoy your fifth reign, "Hulkster," whether or not you soon leave the mat for full-time acting. You'll always rule.

LENNY BOHANNON

Anaconda, MT

WCW: SEE THE LIGHT!

I want to ask WCW when it will bring back the light heavyweight division. I think it unfortunate that many of the lighter wrestlers will never get a shot at the heavyweight belt. There should also be a light heavyweight tag team classification for the same reason.

ERIN PRYOR

Hornell, NY

FLAIR-RUDE FEUD?

It's only a matter of time before Rick Rude and Ric Flair pick a fight with each other. Dave Rosenbaum correctly says there's no way they can coexist in WCW. One will push the other too far, and a full-scale war will start.

I had to laugh when Rude said he has no problem with Flair. Rude is obviously jealous of what the "Nature Boy" has done in the past—nine world titles (seven NWA/WCW, two WWF) say it all. It's true Rude wants to be Flair in the worst way, copying his manner, ring attire, and more, but he'll never be

more than a pretender, in and out of the ring. Rude, remember the phrase, "Imitated, never duplicated"?

As much as I hate Flair (my mom's favorite), he is one of the world's best wrestlers, and among the most devious people I've ever seen. You never know when he's going to strike. Everyone knows something is brewing, and when Flair is doing the brewing, you're in for a bad cup of coffee. He's the ultimate troublemaker, and Rude knows it.

With both in WCW, it's only the start of a titanic power struggle.

JESSICA FORDE

Norfolk, VA

LET'S GO, LEX!

I always thought Lex Luger was the greatest athlete WCW had ever seen. I really loved it when he won the U.S. belt, and then the World title at the Great American Bash in 1990. Now he's in the WWF, and I think Luger is good enough to be the first person to legitimately pin Hulk Hogan in nine years. Lex is truly the total package.

BROOK CHAFFIN

Ventura, CA

Former U.S. and WCW World champion Lex Luger is still the "Total Package" in the WWF, argues reader Brook Chaffin.



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Actual questions

Which young WCW star is known as
"The Natural"?

- 1) Steve Austin
- 2) Scotty the Body
- 3) Dustin Rhodes
- 4) Robert Redford

Who portrayed Thunderlips in the
film *Rocky III*?

- 1) Hulk Hogan
- 2) Lou Albano
- 3) Jesse Ventura
- 4) Rick Martel

Which of the following wrestlers is
"Ravishing"?

- 1) Ron Ritchie
- 2) Dusty Rhodes
- 3) Rick Steamboat
- 4) Rick Rude

True or False: Jesse Ventura was a
member of the elite Navy Seals?

- 1) True
- 2) False

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WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW

(Continued from page 12)

champion, so he can regain the I-C belt for himself.

"That's why Heenan's explanation makes no sense to me," said one locker room source. "Curt doesn't want Hacksaw to have the title. He likes him, but he doesn't want him to have the title. And the best way to satisfy his anger with Shawn is to win that belt from him."

If so, the plan backfired; a week after the Michaels-Duggan match, Marty Jannetty, of all people, shocked Michaels to wrest the crown from his hated rival and one-time tag team partner. Where this leaves Hennig is anyone's guess.

Hennig didn't want the title merely to add to his trophy case. He wanted it for revenge. And that's very unlike the "Mr. Perfect" who's resided in the WWF the past few years.

It was more difficult for Hennig to keep his temper under control in the AWA after splitting up with friend and partner Greg Gagne. He was a young, headstrong wrestler who believed any title was his almost by birthright. Back then, he may reasonably have been expected to have a vicious attitude toward someone like Michaels.

When Hennig came to the WWF as "Mr. Perfect," he no longer felt the intense desire to prove himself. Didn't the name say it all?

Now Hennig has reverted to his old ways.

Will it make him a better wrestler? Doubtful; he is already one of the sport's top five grapplers. If he believes the extra nastiness will somehow improve his game, he doesn't have the confidence he should in his abilities.

Perhaps Hennig has already tired of being a fan favorite. Maybe he enjoys being jeered and booed. Before his own *Raw* match the night he jumped Michaels, Hennig gestured as if he was going to kiss the overweight ring card

girl. Instead, he took the gum out of his mouth and placed it in hers. Definitely not the act of a fan favorite ... well, maybe one at a *Raw* card, but nowhere else.

Hennig has plenty of good reasons to be mad at Michaels. We may expect his conduct to be different, but we can at least understand it. If he's doing all this because of Michaels, the tag "fan favorite" may fit after all.

However, there's a strong possibility Hennig may harbor a more sinister purpose. He may be dropping clues that he's about to return to his days as a rulebreaker, the days when he thought Heenan an honest manager and Ric Flair a decent partner.

This would be a good time for the WWF's fan favorites to ask themselves whether they truly need Hennig's help. Duggan in particular has a reputation for being too trustworthy. If Hennig interferes on his behalf again, Hacksaw might be best advised to kick him rather than thank him.

At this point, for any of them to feel beholden to Hennig—for any reason—could be dangerous. □

The blind and bitter hatred Hennig has shown for Michaels has some observers speculating that he is on the verge of reverting to his rulebreaking ways.



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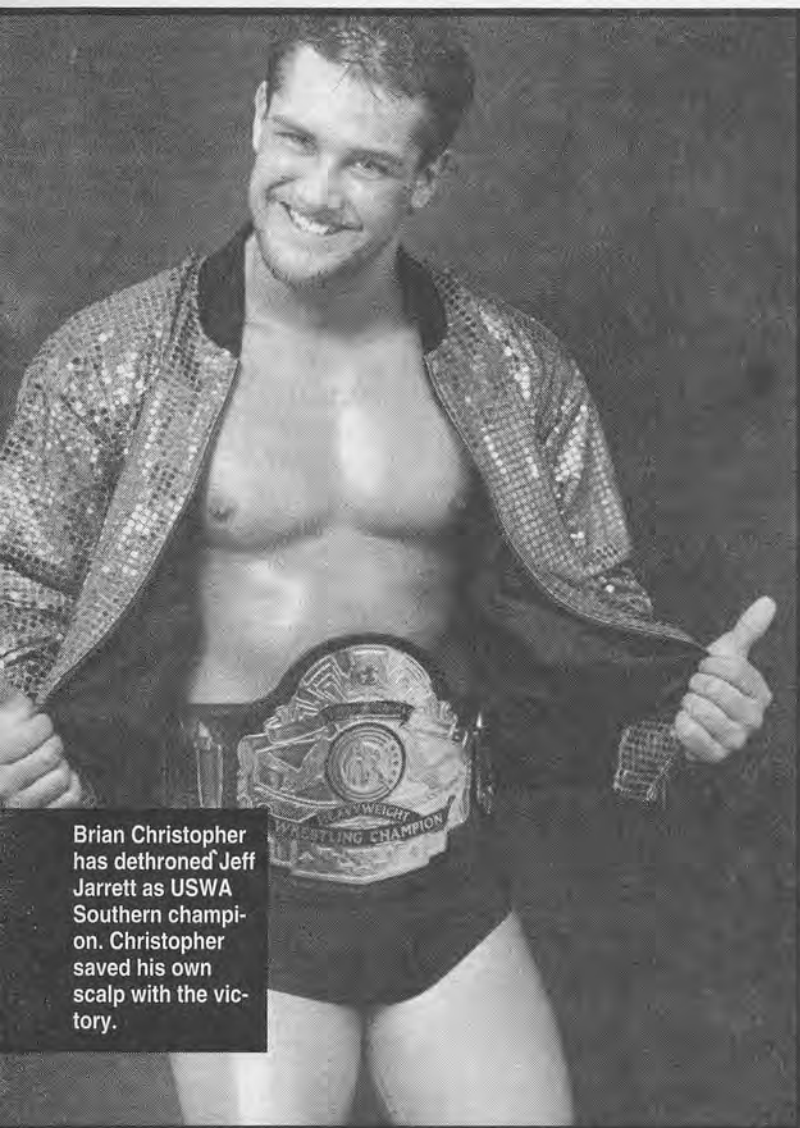
(Continued from page 11)

federation once he lost the TV title.

"It's fine with me," Eaton said. "Smoky Mountain was never the place for me, anyway. I was made for the bright lights of WCW."

Brian Christopher saved his hair by beating **Jeff Jarrett** for the USWA Southern title. If Christopher lost, he would have had his head shaved! ... A pair of former WWF World champions

Sid Vicious will join power-bombing forces with Big Van Vader to face Sting and Davey Boy Smith at WCW's Beach Blast '93. Manager Col. Parker is already ranking Vader and Vicious with the most lethal wrestling tandems in history.



Brian Christopher has dethroned Jeff Jarrett as USWA Southern champion. Christopher saved his own scalp with the victory.

have signed for a series of matches. **Bret Hart** will wrestle **Bob Backlund**.

Sid Vicious and **Big Van Vader**, two masters of the potentially crippling power bomb, will team against **Sting** and **Davey Boy Smith** in the main event of WCW's Beach Blast '93. Vicious, who last wrestled regularly in the WWF, was brought to the federation by manager **Col. Parker**.

"There's no stopping these men," Parker said. "I've put together the most lethal team in wrestling history. You'd have to go back to the slave days to find two finer physical specimens in one ring. I can see it now: Vader power-bombs Sting while Sid power-bombs Smith and lives are changed forever!"

Sting has already felt the impact of Vader's power bomb, which recently rocked **Cactus Jack**. Smith, in WCW after a long, successful stint in the WWF, said he isn't concerned.

"Sure, there's an element of fear, but that's what makes great wrestlers great," Smith said. "We know exactly what they're capable of and we'll be ready for anything."

Smith, who has never teamed with Sting, said he is looking forward to the alliance.

"I've admired that guy for a long time," Smith said. "He's one of the all-time greats and it's a privilege to be at his side."

That's all for now. See you at ringside. □

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November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan**, UWF Tourney, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.**, Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage**, Lugar, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre**, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair**, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff**, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase**, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage**, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre**, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan**, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre**, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan**, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. **Hogan**, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan. **Four Horsemen**, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth**, Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts. **Luger**, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner. **Savage**, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Hogan vs. Savage**, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

July 1989/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Steamboat**, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

August 1989/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Hogan**, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

October 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Rude. **Luger vs. Hogan**, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

November 1989/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Rhodes**, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

December 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jimmy Snuka. **Luger**, Vicious, Muta, Sting, Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

January 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sid Vicious. **Ultimate**, Cornette, Ross, Kerry.

February 1990/COLOR PINUP: Bret Hart. **Lex Luger**, Hogan, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams, Woman.

April 1990/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Ric Flair**, Hennig vs. Hogan, Sting, Rockers, Lawler.

May 1990/COLOR PINUP: The Great Muta. **Hulk Hogan**, Skyscrapers, R&R Express, Piper, Embry.

June 1990/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Hogan vs. Warrior**, R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Arn vs. Sawyer.

July 1990/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Beefcake, Skyscrapers, Heenan, Saito, referees.

September 1990/PINUP: Rick & Scott Steiner. **COLOR FEATURES:** Hogan, Sting, Horsemen, Hennig.

October 1990/PINUP: Brutus Beefcake. **COLOR FEATURES:** Sting, Tugboat, Ultimate, Long, Blanchard-Orndorff.

November 1990/PINUP: Legion of Doom. **COLOR FEATURES:** Sting beats Flair, Rude-Warrior.

December 1990/PINUP: Sting. **COLOR FEATURES:** Legion of Doom, Kerry, Slaughter, Doom, Horsemen.

January 1991/PINUP: Kerry Von Erich. **COLOR FEATURES:** WWF vs. NWA, Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri.

February 1991/PINUP: 1991 calendar. **COLOR FEATURES:** Scott Steiner, Vicious vs. Luger, Rhodes vs. DiBiase.

April 1991/PINUP: Tom Zenk. **COLOR FEATURES:** Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan & Warrior, Magnum T.A., Lawler-Gilbert.

May 1991/PINUP: Arn Anderson. **COLOR FEATURES:** Hogan, Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.

June 1991/PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **COLOR FEATURES:** Hogan, Doom, Horsemen, Steiner.

July 1991/PINUP: Brian Pillman. **COLOR FEATURES:** Hogan, Luger, Demolition, Embry, Horsemen-Vicious.

October 1991/PINUP: Lex Luger. **COLOR FEATURES:** Justice, Hogan-Slaughter, Windham, Williams.

November 1991/PINUP: Bobby Eaton. **COLOR FEATURES:** Savage & Elizabeth, Bushwhackers, Liger, Pillman.

December 1991/PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **COLOR FEATURES:** PWI 500, Simmons, Badd, Hogan-Flair.

January 1992/PINUP: Ron Simmons. **COLOR FEATURES:** Flair, R. Steiner, Ultimate, Luger.

February 1992/PINUP: 1992 calendar. **COLOR FEATURES:** Hogan, Gilbert, Roberts-Justice, hot prospects.

April 1992/PINUP: Ric Flair. **COLOR FEATURES:** Sting-Luger, Rockers, WWF Violence, Dangerous Alliance.

May 1992/PINUP: Rick Rude. **COLOR FEATURES:** Hogan, Sting & Muta vs. Steiners, Savage-Roberts.

June 1992/PINUP: Dustin Rhodes. **COLOR FEATURES:** Piper interview, Abdullah-Cactus, Flair-Savage, Justice.

July 1992/PINUP: Randy Savage. **COLOR FEATURES:** Best of the Best, Flair, U.S.-Japan, Savage.

September 1992/PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **FEATURES:** Justice, Sting-Savage, Backlund, Steiners, Michaels.

October 1992/PINUP: Cactus Jack. **FEATURES:** Savage vs. Warrior, Embry-Moondogs, Z-Man, Japan fire match.

November 1992/PINUP: The Ultimate Warrior. **FEATURES:** British Bulldog, Undertaker, Steiners, Honky Tonk Man interview.

December 1992/PINUP: Big Van Vader. **FEATURES:** PWI 500, Bossman-Nailz, Watt & WCW rules, Justice interview.

January 1993/PINUP: Jeff Jarrett. **FEATURES:** Flair/SummerSlam, Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.

February 1993/PINUP: Curt Hennig. **FEATURES:** Ramon, Snuka-Muraco, Rude, Rhodes, Roberts interview.

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from the desk of...

(Continued from page 6)



Marcus Bagwell is finding that the rigors of professional wrestling make for a fun but difficult life.

He was running on the adrenaline generated by the excitement of testing his athletic abilities against the greatest wrestlers in the world, of traveling to cities he had never before seen, of meeting new and interesting people every day.

"A lot of my friends were going off to college when I broke into wrestling," he recalled, pausing to take a sip of his protein shake. "They were all excited because they were going to be living away from home for the first time. But while they were stuck in some dormitory, I was traveling around the country—indeed, the world!"

Life couldn't have been better, despite the fact that he became an immediate target of Paul E. Dangerously and his men. "To be honest," Bagwell said with a half-smile, "I enjoyed the attention. I figured that if Paul E. and his boys spent so much of their energy trying to get rid of me, they must have seen me as a threat."

But what the rulebreakers were trying to do was send a message to Sting and Dustin Rhodes, who had taken young Bagwell into their tutelage. Once that message (whatever

it actually was!) was sent, they eased off. Sometime after that point—Bagwell can't specify precisely when—wrestling became more of a cross-country haul than a joy ride.

He began to feel the effects of the five-match-per-week schedule. The injuries incurred on Monday are compounded on Tuesday and Wednesday, and having Thursday off doesn't help much, because you spend most of that day in the gym sparring.

"It's a tough life," Bagwell said. "That's why I'm glad you're doing this column, Stu. Young people are constantly asking me how to break into wrestling. I ask them why they would want to be a wrestler, and a typical response is, 'Man, what a great life that must be. You travel all over the place, make all that money, and only have to work a few minutes a day.' Ya know, it wasn't long ago that I was one of those people."

Bagwell laughed the laugh of a man who could no longer relate to the naivete of his youth. The wide-eyed innocence of his early career has been replaced by the serious look of a man who has come to the awareness that realizing a dream is never enough in life, especially when that life means another man is going to be pounding your flesh and bones almost every day.

Becoming a professional wrestler is difficult, but making a career as a professional wrestler—well, the numbers speak for themselves. The ratio of wrestlers who quit the sport during their rookie years is an astounding 34 percent; another 22 percent drop out during their sophomore campaigns; and another 14 percent leave before completing their third year.

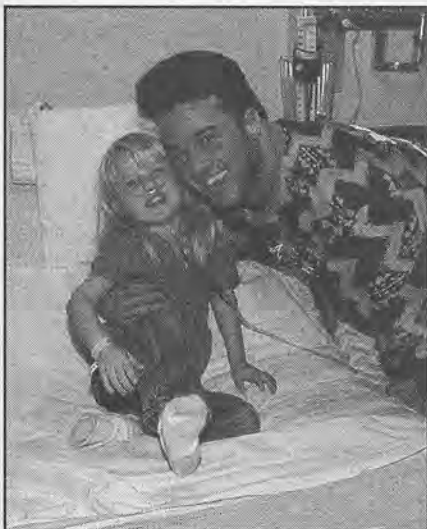
Bagwell, who now finds himself in the remaining 30 percent, feels that he has gotten over the hump and will be around for at least

another 10 years. "It's a job, yes, but don't get me wrong," he said. "It's still fun. Especially right now, teaming with 2 Cold Scorpio. Being in a regular tag team is very therapeutic. We hang together, travel together, work together. You become very close. He's genuinely interested in my problems, and I'm interested in his. We give each other a lift."

Which is very important to Bagwell at this point in his career. "I'm not alone in this," he said. "In fact, wrestlers as athletes aren't alone. I was talking to some of the younger players on the [Atlanta] Hawks the other day, and what they said is that the biggest adjustment to the pros from college is the travel and number of games. But they also said that it didn't really hit them until their second year, because the first year you're still on a natural high just being there."

Bagwell also gets a tremendous energy burst from the fans. "You can be tired and hurting coming into a match," he said, signalling for the waitress to bring the breakfast check to him, "but when you hear the cheers of the fans, that's an indescribable rush. I can't imagine how these guys who get booed by the fans get through the week."

Sitting with this personable young athlete, I get the impression that he will never find out. □



Despite all the traveling and training that the sport demands he do, Bagwell still can find time to visit with sick children.

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CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES—WWF at the L.A. Sports Arena: Virgil pinned "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi ... Bob Backlund pinned Damian Demento ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Kamala ... Tatanka pinned Razor Ramon ... Rick & Scott Steiner won by disqualification over World tag team champions Money Inc. ... Yokozuna pinned Jim Duggan ... Bret Hart won by disqualification over Lex Luger when Razor Ramon interfered. After the match, Ramon and Luger battled back to the dressing room. (05-14-93)

—David Geck

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD—WWF at the Hartford Civic Center: Owen Hart defeated "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Kamala ... Crush and Doink battled to a double-countout ... Bret Hart pinned Razor Ramon ... World tag team champions Money Inc. defeated Rick & Scott Steiner when Irwin R. Schyster pinned Scott Steiner ... Tatanka pinned Lex Luger ... Bob Backlund defeated Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels by countout ... Yokozuna defeated Hacksaw Duggan. (05-03-93)

—Dan Reilly

FLORIDA

TAMPA—ICWA/WWA at the Tampa Sportatorium: Butch Long defeated The Masked BB ... Navy Seal Gone Bad and The Storm Trooper battled to a 15-minute draw ... Dennis The Menace defeated "Mad" Bill Pain by disqualification ... Mike Moore & "Mad" Bill Pain defeated Dennis The Menace & Butch Long by disqualification ... "Big V" Verne Henderson defeated The Lord of Discipline ... In a Texas death match, The Cuban Assassin defeated Nasty Ned Brady by disqualification ... ICWA heavyweight champion Frankie Rose defeated "Brandon Bad Boy" Jeff Bradley. (05-13-93)

—Shannon Rose

KENTUCKY

LOUISVILLE—WCW at Louisville Gardens: Robby V defeated Rip Rogers ... Chris Benoit defeated Steve Regal ... Maxx Payne pinned Joey Maggs ... 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell defeated The Wrecking Crew when Scorpio pinned Fury ... Van Hammer defeated Vinnie Vegas ... NWA heavyweight champion Barry Windham defeated Erik Watts ... Due to an injury to Shane Douglas, Rick Steamboat wrestled Brian Pillman in a best-of-three falls match for the NWA and WCW World tag team titles. Pillman won the first and third falls, retaining the championships for himself and Steve Austin ... Sting & Dustin Rhodes defeated Rick Rude & Paul Orndorff when Sting pinned Orndorff. (05-09-93)

—Sean Underhill

LOUISVILLE—USWA at Louisville Gardens: Bobby Knight defeated Jerry Faith ... Doug Gilbert defeated Danny Davis ... Scotty Flamingo downed Jeff Gaylord ... Moondog Spot defeated Nelson Knight by disqualification when Mike Samples and Bobby Knight interfered ... Miss Texas defeated Sensational Sherri ... Tag team champions Simply Divine—Rex King & Steve Doll—defeated Jeff Jarrett & Brian Christopher by disqualification. (04-27-93)

—Sean Underhill

LOUISIANA

NEW ORLEANS—WCW at the Municipal Auditorium: Kent & Keith Cole defeated The Wrecking Crew ... Maxx Payne defeated Steven Dane by submission ... Arn Anderson beat Erik Watts following a DDT ... Davey Boy Smith beat The Barbarian ... Rick Rude defeated Kensuke Sasaki ... Dustin Rhodes defeated Paul Orndorff ... NWA champion Barry Windham beat Rick Steamboat ... Sting defeated WCW World champion Big Van Vader in a trap match. (05-15-93)

—Jay Stein

MARYLAND

LANDOVER—WWF at the Capital Centre: "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi pinned Jim Powers ... Bob Backlund pinned Blake Beverly ... The Headshrinkers beat The Smokin' Gunns ... Yokozuna pinned Hacksaw Duggan ... Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels and "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig battled to a 20-minute time-limit draw ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned

Kamala ... Bret Hart defeated Lex Luger by disqualification when Razor Ramon interfered. (05-01-93)

—Jimmy Baumbach & Ryan Tramonte

MASSACHUSETTS

SPRINGFIELD—WWF at the Civic Center: "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi pinned Jim Powers ... Bob Backlund pinned Blake Beverly ... The Headshrinkers beat The Smokin' Gunns ... Yokozuna pinned Hacksaw Duggan ... "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig defeated Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels by disqualification ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Kamala ... Bret Hart defeated Lex Luger by disqualification when Razor Ramon interfered. (05-02-93)

—Dan Reilly

MICHIGAN

AUBURN HILLS—WWF at The Palace: Owen Hart pinned Terry Taylor ... The Headshrinkers beat The Smokin' Gunns ... Mr. Hughes (substituting for Blake Beverly) defeated "El Matador" Tito Santana ... Yokozuna beat Hacksaw Duggan by countout when Mr. Fuji threw salt in Duggan's face ... "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig defeated Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels by disqualification ... Tatanka beat Razor Ramon ... Bret Hart beat "Narcissist" Lex Luger by disqualification when Razor Ramon interfered. (05-08-93)

—Allen Barry

NEW JERSEY

CLEMENTON—World Wrestling Alliance at the Coliseum: Ed the Razor beat Masked Avenger ... Joe Daniels and Abbuda Singh battled to a 20-minute draw ... Misty Blue Simmes beat Kat LeRoux ... Tag team champions Chris Candido & Chris Evans beat The South American Cartel ... Heavyweight champion The Spider downed Shaeem by disqualification. (05-01-93)

—John Michael

NEW YORK

BINGHAMTON—WWF at Broome County Arena: Owen Hart defeated Damian Demento ... Crush and Doink battled to a double-countout when Doink II lured Crush out of the ring ... Mr. Hughes (substituting for Beau Beverly) beat Virgil ... The Undertaker defeated Giant Gonzales by disqualification ... Papa Shango beat Typhoon ... Tatanka defeated Terry Taylor (substituting for Razor

The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletters. Readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to *PWI Weekly*, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

Ramon) ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated World tag team champions Money Inc. by disqualification. (05-02-93)

—Dave Szymank

OGDENSBURG—Can-Am Wrestling Federation at the Golden Dome: The Bushwhackers defeated The Troublemakers ... Tony Atlas beat Tommy Dreamer ... Tiger Jackson beat Little Louie ... The Seaway Skipper beat Sonny Blaze ... Ray Odyssey defeated Tasmaniac in a tournament final to become the first Can-Am light heavyweight champion ... Vic Steamboat beat Rick Martel in a tournament final to become the first Can-Am heavyweight champion. (05-01-93)

—John Marshall

UNIONDALE—WWF at Nassau Coliseum: "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi pinned Jim Powers ... Bob Backlund pinned Blake Beverly ... The Headshrinkers beat The Smokin' Gunns ... Yokozuna defeated Hacksaw Duggan by countout ... Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels and "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig battled to a time-limit draw ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Kamala ... Bret Hart defeated Lex Luger by disqualification when Razor Ramon interfered. (05-01-93)

—Burton Crane

NORTH CAROLINA

TAYLORSVILLE—PWF at the Armory: Italian Stallion beat Terry Austin in a Texas death match ... Junior heavyweight champion George South beat Cruel Connection II ... Scotty McKeever beat Mad Dog ... Flaming Youth defeated Russian Assassin I. (05-15-93)

—Brock Chandler

KING'S MOUNTAIN—PWF at the Armory: Flaming Youth won a 10-man battle royal by ousting Russian Assassin II ... Heavyweight champion Italian Stallion beat Terry Austin ... Junior heavyweight champion George South beat Scotty McKeever ... Tag team champions Flaming Youth & Cruel Connection II beat Star Ryder & The Southern Rocker ... Austin Steele defeated Mad Dog. (05-14-93)

—Brock Chandler

SUGAR GROVE—PWF at Sugar Grove Grade School: Italian Stallion beat Terry Austin ... George South beat Star Ryder ... Flaming Youth & Cruel Connection II beat The Russian Assassins to capture the tag team title ... Scotty

McKeever beat The Black Scorpion. (05-01-93)

—Brock Chandler

RALEIGH—WCW at Dorton Arena: Kent Cole pinned Fury of The Wrecking Crew ... Maxx Payne defeated Keith Cole ... Arn Anderson & Erik Watts defeated Chris Benoit & Bobby Eaton when Anderson pinned Eaton ... Rick Rude pinned Brad Armstrong ... U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes defeated TV champion Paul Orndorff; only Rhodes' title was on the line in the match ... NWA champion Barry Windham pinned Ron Simmons ... World champion Big Van Vader pinned Rick Steamboat. (04-30-93)

—Scott Penatzer

WALLACE—PWF at the Armory: Flaming Youth won a battle royal by ousting Terry Austin ... Heavyweight champion The Italian Stallion beat Russian Assassin II ... Junior heavyweight champion George South beat Cruel Connection II ... Scotty McKeever beat Mad Dog. (04-30-93)

—Brock Chandler

OHIO

RICHFIELD—WWF at the Richfield Coliseum: Owen Hart pinned Terry Taylor ... Crush and Doink battled to a double-countout when Doink II, who was hiding under the ring, prevented Crush from returning to the ring ... Mr. Hughes defeated "El Matador" Tito Santana ... The Undertaker beat Giant Gonzales by disqualification ... Tatanka beat Razor Ramon ... Papa Shango pinned Typhoon ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat World tag team champions Money Inc. by disqualification when Ted DiBiase used Irwin R. Schyster's briefcase on Scott. (05-07-93)

—Allen Barry & Jeff Gorman

OKLAHOMA

CHICKASHA—Power Zone Wrestling Alliance: Randy Jackson pinned "Executive" Rick Valentine ... Shadow pinned Casey Cannon ... The Wild Maverick & Casey Cannon defeated The Brotherhood of Pain ... "Cowboy" Ed Robinson pinned "Gambler" Rick Garrett; as a result, Garrett challenged Robinson to a five-minute match and pinned him in 55 seconds ... Tom Jones pinned "Beach Boy" Shawn Summers ... Dex Deaton defeated Black Bart by countout. (05-15-93)

—Clark Peterson

BROKEN ARROW—Power Zone Wrestling Alliance: Rick Garrett pinned Chains ... Running Wild Eagle defeated Pain Maker with a powerslam ... Tom Jones won by disqualification over "Pretty Boy" Doug Masters ... The Wild Maverick defeated Psycho ... GWF junior heavyweight champion Calvin Knapp defeated The Shadow ... Rod Price and Dex Deaton battled to a double-disqualification. (05-08-93)

—Clark Peterson

WAURIKA—Power Zone Wrestling Alliance: Slasher Lawless pinned J.D. Richards ... Treacherous Phillips Jr. downed Ragin' Cajun by disqualification ... The Wild Maverick & J.D. Richards defeated Slasher & Chains when Maverick pinned Slasher ... Casey Cannon downed "Cowboy" Ned Robinson ... "Beach Boy" Shawn Summers pinned Tom Jones ... "Gambler" Rick Garrett & Oklahoma Stud battled Crusher & Black Bart to a double-disqualification. (05-01-93)

—Clark Peterson

OREGON

PORTLAND—Championship Wrestling USA at the Interstate Pavilion: Dane Rush beat Karl Pope when Lou Andrews passed Rush a pair of brass knuckles ... Al Madril beat C.W. Bergstrom ... Jim Pope beat Lou Andrews when Karl Pope tripped Andrews as he was suplexing Jim over the top rope ... Col. DeBeers & Rambo defeated Buddy Wayne & Bart Sawyer when DeBeers pinned Sawyer ... Sumito & Max Steele defeated Jesse Barr & Bruiser Brian in a Texas tornado steel cage match when Sumito pinned Bruiser. (05-15-93)

—Kenn Jones

PORTLAND—Championship Wrestling USA at the International Pavilion: Dane Rush beat Jim Pope ... Bart Sawyer beat Nick Danger ... Lou Andrews beat Karl Pope ... C.W. Bergstrom defeated Rambo by disqualification ... Col. DeBeers was disqualified in his match against Buddy Wayne due to interference by Rambo ... The Texas tornado match between Jesse Barr & Bruiser Brian and Max Steele & Sumito was ruled a no-contest after 19 minutes because the referee was unable to control the match. (05-08-93)

—Kenn Jones

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA—ECW at the ECW Arena: Larry Winters and Tony Stetson battled to a double-disqualification ... TV champion Jimmy Snuka pinned Tommy Cairo with his foot on the rope. Terry Funk came to ringside, told the referee about the foot, and the decision was given to Cairo ... Sandman pinned Jonathan Hot Body ... Terry Funk beat The Canadian Wolfman by submission ... Ivan Koloff pinned Sandman ... Eddie Gilbert & Doug Gilbert beat J.T. Smith & Glen Osbourne ... The Super Destroyers captured the tag team title from The Suicide Blonds ... Magnificent Muraco, Eddie Gilbert, & The Dark Patriot beat Glen Osbourne, Tommy Cairo & Larry Winters when Muraco pinned Osbourne; after the decision, Hawk and Terry Funk ran in to the ring and cleaned house ... Terry Funk and TV champion Jimmy Snuka battled to a double-disqualification. (05-15-93)

—Lisa Dicampili

PHILADELPHIA—ECW at the ECW Arena: Hawk beat Samoan Warrior & Danny Allen in a handicap match ... Tommy Cairo won a battle royal to claim

the Pennsylvania state title ... **The Suicide Blonds**—Chris Candido & Jonathan Hot Body—beat Tommy Cairo & Glen Osbourne ... Heavyweight champion **Magnificent Muraco**, accompanied by **Paul E. Dangerously**, defeated **Sandman**, accompanied by **Peaches** ... TV champion **Jimmy Snuka** was disqualified against **Hawk** when **Eddie Gilbert** ran in the ring and threw fire in Hawk's face ... **Eddie Gilbert** defeated **Herve Renesto** in a chain match ... Heavyweight champion **Magnificent Muraco** pinned **Tommy Cairo** ... **The Dark Patriot** beat **J.T. Smith** ... A six-man match between **The Super Destroyers** & **Salvatore Bellomo** and the three **Suicide Blonds**—Chris Candido, Jonathan Hot Body, and Sir Richard Michaels—was declared a no-contest when **The Dangerous Alliance**—**Jimmy Snuka**, **Magnificent Muraco**, and **Eddie Gilbert**—stormed the ring wielding garbage cans. (05-14-93)

—Lisa Dicampfi

WIND GAP—IWA at the Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Company: **Don D. Lux** pinned **Gino Caruso** ... **L.A. Gore** pinned **Johnny Blades** ... **Troy** & **Mark Mest** defeated **Vinnie Biondo** & **The Assassin** when **Troy** pinned **Assassin** ... In a Texas death match, "**Maniac**" **Jimmy Deo** pinned **Morgus the Maniac** ... **Nomad** pinned **Harley Lewis** ... **Nomad** won an eight-man over-the-top-rope battle royal by eliminating **Jimmy Deo** ... **Ripper**, accompanied by **Nurse Vanessa**, beat **Dr. Johnny Wildside** by disqualification. (05-14-93)

—Timothy A. Walker

RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE—WWF at the Providence Civic Center: "**Brooklyn Brawler**" **Steve Lombardi** pinned **Jim Powers** ... **Bob Backlund** pinned **Blake Beverly** ... **The Headshrinkers** beat **The Smokin' Gunns** when **Samu** pinned **Bart** ... **Yokozuna** beat **Hacksaw Duggan** by countout ... "**Mr. Perfect**" **Curt Hennig** and **Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels** battled to a time-limit draw ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** pinned **Kamala** ... **Bret Hart** defeated **Lex Luger** by disqualification when **Razor Ramon** interfered. (05-02-93)

—Karen A. Briggs

TENNESSEE

JOHNSON CITY—Smoky Mountain at Freedom Hall: **Killer Kyle** beat **Billy Blaze** ... **Tim Horner** & **Brian Lee** defeated **Jimmy Golden** & **Dutch Mantel** ... Heavyweight champion **Tracey Smothers** and "**Dirty White Boy**" **Tony Anthony** battled to a no-contest in a flag match; **Smothers'** title was held up following the bout ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** captured the tag team title from **The Heavenly Bodies**—**Stan Lane** & **Tom Prichard**—when **Robert Gibson** pinned **Lane**. As a result of a pre-match stipulation, **Lane** must leave Smoky Mountain ... **Brian Lee** defeated **Kevin Sullivan** in a "Singapore spike" match. (05-15-93)

—Bill Needham

MARYVILLE—Galaxy Wrestling at The Junction: **Rick Connors** beat **Mac Powers** ... **Akron Al-Hussain** pinned **Spore #1** ... **Regulator Stone** & **Keith Hart** defeated **Len Montana** & **Steve Flynn** when **Hart** pinned **Flynn** ... "**Crazy**" **Bobby B** beat **Regulator Steele** ... **Tony Prichard** beat heavy-

weight champion **Chic White**, but due to questions surrounding the decision, the title was held up indefinitely. (05-13-93)

—Bill Needham

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **PG-13** & **Brandi Wine** defeated **Bill** & **Steve Marino** & **Miss Texas** ... **Jeff Gaylord** beat **Scotty Flamingo** ... **Wolfie D** beat **Master of Terror** by disqualification ... **Koko B. Ware** & **Frank Morell** beat **Brian Christopher** & **Frank Hickey** ... **Jeff Jarrett** & **Jeff Gaylord** defeated tag team champions **Steve Doll** & **Rex King** by disqualification ... USWA champion **Papa Shango** and **Jerry Lawler** battled to a double-disqualification. (05-10-93)

—Mark Mitchell

KNOXVILLE—Smoky Mountain's "Volunteer Slam II" at the Civic Coliseum: **Robert Gibson** pinned **The Tasmaniac** ... **Killer Kyle** defeated **Robert Fuller** by disqualification ... **Brian Lee** pinned **Stan Lane** ... **Kevin Sullivan** pinned **Jimmy Golden** ... **Tom Prichard** pinned **Ricky Morton** ... Heavyweight champion **Tracey Smothers** defeated "**Dirty White Boy**" **Tony Anthony** in a "white flag coward match" ... **Ricky Morton** defeated **Stan Lane** by submission in a cage match. (05-09-93)

—Tommy Noe

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **Steve Marino** defeated **Reggie B. Fine** ... **Miss Texas** defeated **Konnie** ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Phantom** defeated **Bill Marino** ... **Scotty Flamingo** downed **Danny Davis** ... **The Young Stallions**, **Danny Davis**, & **Miss Texas** defeated **Reggie B. Fine**, **The Rock 'n' Roll Phantom**, **Scotty Flamingo**, & **Konnie** when **Davis** pinned **Flamingo** ... **Koko B. Ware** defeated **Brian Christopher** by disqualification ... **Jeff Jarrett** & **Billy Travis** beat tag team champions **Rex King** & **Steve Doll** by disqualification ... **Papa Shango** defeated **Jerry Lawler** to capture the USWA heavyweight title. (05-03-93)

—Mark Mitchell

KNOXVILLE—Southern Wrestling Federation at the Electric Ballroom: "**Working Man**" **Johnny Raynor** beat **John Manson** ... **Steve Flynn** & **Greg Caldwell** beat **Keith Hart** & **Chris Powers** by disqualification ... **The Sandman** beat **The Beast** ... **The Wild Samoans** beat **The Young Guns** as **Samoan II** beat **Scott Sterling** ... North American heavyweight champion **Chris Champion** beat **J.D. Wolfe** ... **Scott Sterling** won a 20-man battle royal. (05-02-93)

—Bill Needham

COVINGTON—USWA at the National Guard Armory: **Rock 'n' Roll Phantom** and **Jeff Gaylord** battled to a draw ... **Billy Travis** beat **Ron McClary** ... **Miss Texas** beat **Brandi Wine** ... **Danny Davis** & **Master of Terror** beat **PG-13** ... Heavyweight champion **Jerry Lawler** beat **Brian Christopher**. (04-30-93)

—Joey Jenkins & Tammy Thompson

FALL BRANCH—Southern States Wrestling at the Sampson Center: **George Hyatt** and **Billy Marshall** wrestled to a time-limit draw ... **Loverboy Lyons** beat **The Midnight Mauler** ... **Alex Shane** captured the light heavyweight title from **Eddie Golden** ... **Chic White** & **The Tennessee Equalizer** beat **Danny** & **Bam Bam Christian** ... **G.Q. Stratus**

pinned **The Skullcrusher** ... **Jimmy Golden** beat **Wayne "The King" Rogers**. (04-30-93)

—Bill Needham

MARYVILLE—Galaxy Wrestling at the Junction: **Spoiler I** beat **Akron Al-Hussain** ... **Rick Connors** pinned **Steve Idol** ... **Chic White** beat **G.I. Joe** ... **Regulator Steele** defeated **Len Montana** ... **Regulator Stone** & **Keith Hart** beat **Tony Prichard** & **Steve Flynn** when **Hart** pinned **Flynn** after **Hart's** valet threw salt into **Flynn's** eyes. (04-29-93)

—Bill Needham

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **Danny Davis** beat **Doug Gilbert** ... **PG-13** defeated **The Young Stallion** ... **Wolfie D** defeated **Steve Marino** ... **Koko B. Ware** downed **Brian Christopher** ... **Jeff Jarrett** & **Billy Joe Travis** defeated tag team champions **Rex King** & **Steve Doll** by disqualification ... **Jerry Lawler** & **Miss Texas** defeated **Scotty Flamingo** & **Sensational Sherri**. (04-26-93)

—Mark Mitchell

TEXAS

DALLAS—Big D at the Rocket Palace: **Alex Porteau** defeated **Billy Steele** ... **Big D** defeated **Kit Carson** to retain the light heavyweight title ... "**Gorgeous**" **Gary Young** & "**Wild**" **Bill Irwin** defeated **Terry Simms** & **Calvin Knapp** when **Irwin** pinned **Simms** ... **Iceman King Parsons** & **Action Jackson** battled **Sweet Daddy Falcone** & **Shawn Stevens** to a no-contest ... **Chris Adams** pinned **Scotty "The Body" Braddock**. (05-02-93)

—Kevin Boswell

WYLIE—UWA at the Ranch House: **Jimmy James** & **Ebony Prince** defeated **Action Jackson** & **Bubba Fangman** by disqualification when **Jackson** hit the referee ... "**Flamboyant**" **Freddie Fargo** defeated **James Beard** by countout ... **Lady Di** defeated **Mad Madeline** by disqualification when **Lady Kay** interfered ... **Ray Evans** pinned **Bam Bam Richardson** ... **Bullman Downs** pinned **The American Ninja**. (05-02-93)

—Kevin Boswell

DALLAS—GWF at the Sportatorium: **Jimmy James** & **Ebony Prince** defeated **Johnny Dollar** & **Chris Barrett** when **James** pinned **Dollar** ... **Vito Mussolini** pinned **Chad Champion** ... **Chaz Taylor** pinned **Too Sweet Jones** ... Heavyweight champion **Stevie Ray** pinned **Johnny Mantell** ... **Awesome Kong** & **King Kong** battled **Booker T** & **Action Jackson** to a no-contest ... **Calvin Knapp** pinned **Steven Dane** ... **Angel** defeated **Black Bart** by disqualification ... **Guido Falcone** pinned **Johnny Hawk** ... **Crazy Mike** defeated **Tim Brooks** by disqualification in a falls-count-anywhere, lights-out, non-sanctioned match. (04-30-93)

—Freddie Fargo

MESQUITE—UWA at the Villa Inn: **Chris Barrett** pinned **Chad Champion** ... **Pat Kealoah** pinned **Ricky Long** ... **Lady Di** defeated **Lady Kay** by disqualification when **Mad Madeline** interfered ... **Ray Evans** pinned **The Country Dog** ... **Jimmy James**, **Ebony Prince**, & **Bullman Downs** defeated **Big Johnny Hawk**, **Action Jackson**, & **Calvin Knapp** when **James** pinned **Hawk**. (04-28-93)

—Kevin Boswell

VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA—WCW at the Municipal Auditorium: Kent & Keith Cole defeated **The Wrecking Crew** ... Maxx Payne defeated Steven Dane by submission ... Arn Anderson beat Erik Watts following a DDT ... Davey Boy Smith beat **The Barbarian** ... Rick Rude defeated Kensuke Sasaki ... Dustin Rhodes defeated Paul Orndorff ... NWA champion Barry Windham beat Rick Steamboat ... Sting defeated WCW World champion Big Van Vader in a strap match. (05-14-93)

—Jay Stein

LYNCHBURG—North American Wrestling Alliance at the National Guard Armory: Ray Storm and Avalanche battled to a time-limit draw ... Eclipse & H.C. Lovens defeated Joe Powers & Iceman ... The Ninja pinned **Psycho** ... Dusty Reid beat Roger Anderson ... L.L. Cool defeated Bob Coolie ... Bam Bam defeated Peggy Lee Leather ... Mike Sampson & Bill Maddox beat Terminator & Mad Dog Steffy ... Ronnie Garvin & Tommy Rich beat Ivan & Vladimir Koloff by disqualification. (05-14-93)

—Bill Needham

NORFOLK—PWF at the Norfolk Navy Base: **Cruel Connection II** won an eight-man battle royal by ousting Terry Austin ... Heavyweight champion **The Italian Stallion** beat **The Black Scorpion** in a lumberjack match ... Junior heavyweight champion George South beat **Flaming Youth** ... Tag team champions **Cruel Connection II** & **Flaming Youth** beat **Scotty McKeever** & **Mad Dog**. (05-08-93)

—Brock Chandler

SHENANDOAH—Smoky Mountain at the Page County High School: **Robbie Eagle** pinned **Bill Maddox** following a suplex ... Brian Lee defeated **Killer Kyle** by disqualification ... **The Nightstalker** pinned Kevin Sullivan ... Heavyweight champion Tracey Smothers pinned **"Dirty White Boy"** Tony Anthony ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** & Tim Horner defeated Tom Prichard, Jim Cornette, & **Killer Kyle** when Horner pinned Cornette. (04-30-93)

—Timothy A. Walker

FISHERVILLE—Smoky Mountain at the Augusta Expo: Tim Horner beat **Billy Maddox** ... **"Prime Time"** Brian Lee defeated **Killer Kyle** ... Kevin Sullivan and **The Nightstalker** battled to a double-countout ... Heavyweight champion Tracey Smothers pinned **"Dirty White Boy"** Tony Anthony ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **The Heavenly Bodies**—Tom Prichard & Jim Cornette—when Rick Morton pinned Cornette. (04-29-93)

—Michael Cheslock

WASHINGTON

TUALIP—Ringside Professional Wrestling at the Totem Lake Center: **The Psycho** defeated **"Lightning"** Buddy Wayne by submission to a bearhug ... **"Playboy"** Buddy Rose pinned Ole Olsen ... **"Diamond"** Timothy Flowers pinned **The Olympian** ... Billy Two Eagles pinned Moondog Moretti. (05-01-93)

—Stu Kemp

DARRINGTON—Ringside Professional Wrestling at Darrington High School: **The Psycho** defeated

"Lightning" Buddy Wayne by submission to a bearhug ... **"Playboy"** Buddy Rose defeated **The Olympian** ... **"Diamond"** Timothy Flowers pinned Ole Olsen ... Billy Two Eagles defeated Moondog Moretti with a reverse rollup. (04-30-93)

—Stu Kemp



CANADA

CLOVERDALE, BRITISH COLUMBIA—West Coast Championship Wrestling at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds: **White Dragon** beat lightweight champion **Mr. Tompko** by countout ... **"Olympian"** Mike Roselli and Akam Singh battled to a time-limit draw ... Doby Gillis downed **"The Pimp"** Randy Taylor with a running powerslam ... Shalamar beat Debbie Francis in a hair vs. hair match ... **The Beautiful Bodies**—Oly Olsen & Rocky Della Serra—defeated **"Diamond"** Timothy Flowers & **Firefighter Adrian** to capture the tag team title ... Heavyweight champion **The Mighty Quinn** beat Michelle Starr to retain his title. (05-15-93)

—Adam Dykes & James Olson

ITALY

MILAN—WWF card: Virgil pinned Terry Taylor ... Doink II pinned Tito Santana ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat World tag team champions Money Inc.—Ted DiBiase & Irwin R. Schyster—by disqualification ... **The Bushwhackers** beat **The Beverly Brothers** ... Tatanka pinned Papa Shango ... **The Undertaker** defeated Yokozuna by disqualification ... Bret Hart pinned Bam Bam Bigelow ... Scott Steiner pinned Irwin R. Schyster. (04-26-93)

—Colin Bowman

JAPAN

FUKUOKA—"Wrestling Dontaku" card at the Fukuoka Dome: El Samurai, Takayuki Iizuka, & Akira Nogami beat Hiroyoshi Yamamoto, Satoshi Kojima, & Osamu Nishimura in 15:01 when Nogami pinned Yamamoto ... Michiyoshi Ohara pinned Akitoshi Saito in 9:26 ... Brutus Beefcake pinned Masa Saito in 8:35 ... **The Great Kabuki**, Masashi Aoyagi, Kuniaki Kobayashi, Shiro Koshinaka, & Kengo Kimura defeated Ashura Hara, Takashi Ishikawa, Super Strong Machine, Tatsutoshi Goto, & Hiro Saito in 11:26 when Koshinaka pinned Goto ... Tiger Mask pinned IWGP junior heavyweight champion Jushin Liger in 14:25 of a non-title match ... Sting and Scott Norton battled to a no-contest in 9:16 ... Yoshiaki Fujiwara downed defeated Hiroshi Hase in 12:11 ... IWGP

tag team champions **The Hell Raisers**—Hawk & Power—defeated Masa Chono & Shinya Hashimoto in 12:22 when Power pinned Chono ... WWF World champion Hulk Hogan pinned IWGP champion **The Great Muta** in 15:55 ... Antonio Inoki & Tatsumi Fujinami beat Riki Choshu & Genichiro Tenryu in 26:25 when Fujinami pinned Choshu. (05-03-93)

—Steven Du

SPAIN

BARCELONA—WWF card: Virgil pinned Terry Taylor ... Tito Santana defeated Doink II ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat World tag team champions Money Inc.—Ted DiBiase & Irwin R. Schyster—by disqualification ... **The Bushwhackers** beat **The Beverly Brothers** ... Tatanka pinned Papa Shango ... **The Undertaker** defeated Yokozuna by disqualification ... Bret Hart pinned Bam Bam Bigelow. (04-24-93)

—Colin Bowman

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES—NWA at the Olympic Auditorium: "Superstar" Billy Graham defeated **"Cowboy"** Frankie Laine ... Art Dominguez wrestled to a draw with Kubla Khan ... Black Gordman beat King Krow ... Dory Dixon defeated **The Great Goliath** by countout ... Chris Tolos and Mr. Wrestling battled to a time-limit draw ... Americas champion John Tolos defeated **The Sheik** by countout ... Ray Mendoza & Raul Mata beat Killer Kowalski & Kenji Shibuya. (05-05-72)

—Steve Guiremand

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: Bruno Sammartino defeated **"Nature Boy"** Buddy Rogers in 48 seconds to win the WWF World title ... **The Fabulous Kangaroos** defeated Pete Sanchez & Vittorio Apollo ... Bobo Brazil & Dory Dixon wrestled to a curfew draw with Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard ... **The Great Mortimer** pinned **The Great Scott** in 8:29 ... Pedro Morales pinned Willie Bath in 9:58 ... "Handsome" Johnny Barend pinned Tim Wood at 11:14 ... "Irish" Pat Barrett pinned Godo Chihuahua at 10:11 ... **The Magnificent Maurice** pinned Karl Steif in 9:53. (05-17-63)

—The New York Times

TEXAS

IRVING—World Class at Texas Stadium: **The Great Kabuki** beat Mark Youngblood ... Steve Simpson defeated **The Great Kabuki** ... Brian Adias beat Steve Regal ... Chris Adams & Brickhouse Brown defeated **The Grappler** & John Tatum ... Rick Rude won by disqualification over **Bruiser Brody** ... Kerry Von Erich, Lance Von Erich, & Steve Simpson won the six-man tag team championship from **The Freebirds** ... **The Missing Link** & **Iceman Parsons** defeated **One Man Gang** & Gen. Skandor Akbar ... **Bruiser Brody** defeated Terry Gordy in a barbed wire match ... **Sunshine** defeated Missy Hyatt in a mud match. (05-04-86)

—Bob Closson

OFF THE TOP ROPE

(Continued from page 18)

Dear Eddie,

What did you think of Hulk Hogan's performance against The Great Muta recently in Japan? I've heard reports claiming it was the finest match of Hogan's career. Can it be Hogan is developing as a scientific wrestler? And if it's true, would that change your opinion of him?

KEVIN ENMIGHT
Seattle, WA

Dear Kevin,

PWI Weekly, in whose staff box you'll notice my name no longer appears, recently voted the Muta-Hogan encounter its Match of the Week, hailing Hogan's "desire to bring his scientific skill to another level." I assume they meant the



Using a legdrop, a foot to the face, and a lariat against The Great Muta hardly make Hulk Hogan a scientific grappling wonder or even worthy of Wrestler of the Week honors.

elementary school level, judging from their description of Hogan's victory: "... after his usual leg-drop and foot to the face of Muta, Hogan wrapped things up with the lariat and scored the pin."

Hardly the stuff of scientific legend. Suffice to say the "Hulkster" is back—and so is the media hysteria that accompanies him.

Dear Eddie,

My choice for Wrestler of the Decade? Sting. No other grappler has maintained the consistently high profile Sting has over the past 10 years. No one has shown the continued improvement (that shows no signs of abating) or can match his versatile skill level. And he has done all this without ever once compromising his integrity. He is a rare soul indeed.

JUNIPER ROLLINS
Nova Scotia, Canada

Dear Juniper,

Don't think because I was evicted from *PWI Weekly* (in a midnight purge and at considerable financial cost) that I harbor any bitterness toward the publication. It's just that by naming Sting Wrestler of the Week, as it recently did, proves the publication's innate lack of imagination. Sting will be remembered—or forgotten—as the Evander Holyfield of wrestling, elevated to championship status not for any outstanding skill, but more for the lack of any viable competition. I've said it often and I won't go back on my word (even it is in vogue around here): Sting is good. But Wrestler of the Decade? Please, Jennifer—you need to get to the mainland more often.

Dear Eddie,

My boyfriend is a fanatical wrestling fan. While I enjoy the sport myself, his devotion is getting in the way of our relationship. All day long it's wrestling this and

wrestling that. He even insisted on watching it when my parents came over for dinner. What should I do?

CHRISSIE JONES
Chicago

Dear Chrissie,

Why don't you send me a recent photograph and we'll take it from there.

Dear Eddie,

Who's ready for a comeback and who would you like to see return to the ring?

BILLY MENKEN
Baltimore

Dear Billy,

As a struggling writer starved for food and new material, I go to sleep every night praying for Dusty Rhodes to decide the time (and the blueberry pancakes) are ripe for a return. Otherwise, Papa Shango would get my vote as Wrestler of the Year if he could bring Bruiser Brody back. □

Seeing the seldom under-fed "American Dream" Dusty Rhodes return to the ring for a comeback would be the answer to Ellner's prayers.



this month in...

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS

WRESTLE America



Today's top 20 wrestlers: Our Stat-O-Chart ratings reveal who—and why!

Why no one in WCW calls **ERIK WATTS** "Daddy's Boy" anymore!



Why the talented **CHRIS BENOIT** remains WCW's biggest underachiever!

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WRESTLING

ENQUILERA

GILBERT AND DANGEROUSLY AT ODDS!

By BILL APTER

Will It Be Hot Stuff International Or The Dangerous Alliance?

PHILADELPHIA, PA—A disagreement over whether to call their group Hot Stuff International or The Dangerous Alliance has sparked a potentially shattering disagreement between Eddie Gilbert and Paul E. Dangerously.

Insiders say negotiations between the two have become so heated that a split is possible between ECW's newest and most talented force.

"It's gotten out of a hand," a source said. "Both of these men have huge egos and they're not ones to give in. This could go one of two ways: Either they agree to compromise, or the whole thing falls apart."

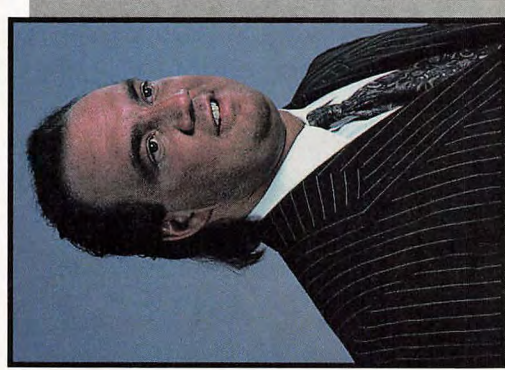
Dangerously appeared to have established an ECW dynasty when he put together his new Dangerous Alliance of champion Magnificent Muraco, "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka, and Eddie Gilbert. But Gilbert demanded a management role in the group and then expressed his displeasure with the name.

"Wherever I've gone, my team has been called Hot Stuff," Gilbert said. "That's what I am, Hot Stuff, and I don't want any part of this Dangerous Alliance nonsense. It's ridiculous."

Gilbert became particularly incensed when Dangerously announced the signing of The Dark Patriot, Gilbert's arch-rival in the GWF last year. Gilbert wants no part of a partnership with Dark Patriot and has publicly said so.

"The problem with Eddie is that he's not a team player," Dangerously said. "This could be the most dominant force in wrestling history, but he's being picky."

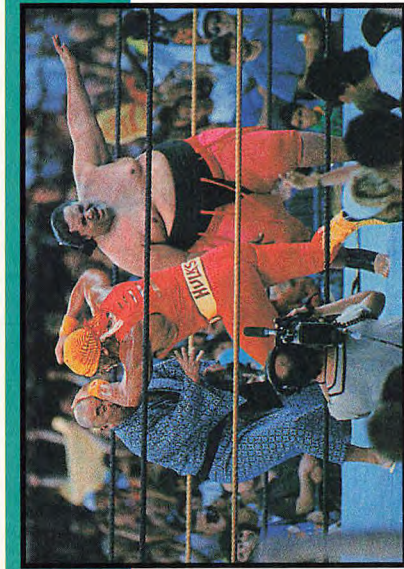
This isn't the first time Gilbert had a disagreement with a potential partner. Several years ago, Gilbert and Missy Hyatt argued over whether to call their alliance Hot Stuff Inc. or Hyatt International. They finally settled on a combination: Hot Stuff International.



Paul E. Dangerously



Eddie Gilbert



The "Hulkster" on the attack

Hogan Gears Up For Yokozuna

By BILL APTER

STAMFORD, CT—WWF World champion Hulk Hogan, surprisingly inactive since winning his fifth title at WrestleMania IX, is preparing for a series of rematches against Yokozuna.

The WWF has already announced one match. It will take place on July 17 at the Capital Centre in Landover, Maryland.

According to highly placed WWF sources, Hogan and Yokozuna had trouble agreeing on a rematch because Hogan wanted Mr. Fuji banned from ringside. The sumo master refused to wrestle without his manager present, and WWF officials were finally able to iron out a deal.

"Hogan definitely balked," WWF expert Thomas Piliard said. "He's hardly wrestled since he won the title and he definitely seems hesitant to get back into the ring. All of this is proving what everyone thought, that Hogan wanted no part of the title in the first place."

Hogan confirmed some of those suspicions on May 3 in Japan, when he expressed his desire to win the IWGP belt from The Great Muta. But Hogan finally seems serious about defending the WWF World title.

Hogan won the belt in an impromptu match at WrestleMania IX. Yokozuna had beaten Bret Hart for the title when Fuji offered a challenge to Hogan. The "Hulkster" accepted, stepped into the ring, and won when Fuji accidentally tossed salt in Yokozuna's face.

Neidhart Returns; Skips To WCW

By DAVE ROSENBAUM

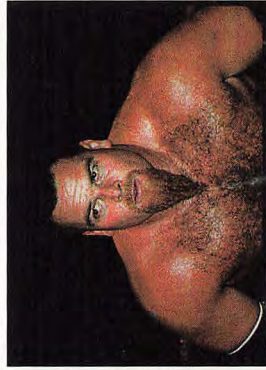
ATLANTA, GA—Jim Neidhart, formerly one-half of the WWF World tag team champions with Bret Hart, is back in the ring. The brawling great has teamed with Junkyard Dog and is setting his sights on the WCW World tag team title.

"That's the big strap, the belt every great tag team wants to win, and we're going to get it," Neidhart said. "I've known JYD for a long time, and there's no substitute for experience. The Hollywood Blondes are in for the fight of their lives."

Hart and Neidhart, The Hart Foundation, were two-time WWF World tag champions. They won their first title from The British Bulldogs on January 26, 1987, and their second from Demolition on December 13, 1990.

The duo broke up after losing the belts at WrestleMania VII. Hart prospered as a singles wrestler and went on to win the WWF World title, but Neidhart suffered and eventually retired.

"I've had time to think about what I want to do," Neidhart said. "This is it, one big drive for the top, and then I'll take it from there."



Jim Neidhart

AROUND THE GLOBE

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

A crowd of 50,000, including the president of Mexico, was at the Plaza De Torres in Mexico City on April 30 to watch Konan wrestle Cien Caras in a loser-must-retire match. But, suddenly, Jake "The Snake" Roberts ran out to ringside, knocked out Caras, knocked Konan from the ring, and DDT'd Mexican midjet champion Mascara Sagrada. "That's called making an impact," an unapologetic Roberts said later. "I just needed to get that out of my system." After Roberts' display, Universo 2000 threw Caras back into the ring, and Caras managed to beat Konan.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Mr. Damage has established himself as the Futurewave Wrestling heavyweight champion. Damage, a fan favorite, is managed by the legendary Stu Hart. "This kid has a lot of talent," Hart said. "But what's especially exciting is working in Australia. These fans have really taken to the sport and I think it has a great future here." Mr. Damage is feuding with New Zealand heavyweight champion A.J. Freely. The Futurewave tag team champions are Bad Blood, managed by Dr. Lou Romero. Bad Blood is Crazy Nick and George the Wrecker.

MILAN, ITALY

The WWF ended its highly successful European tour here as Bret Hart pinned Bam Bigelow and Rick and Scott Steiner defeated World tag team champions Money Inc. by disqualification. After the card, Bigelow was spotted standing outside of La Scala, Milan's world famous opera house, and gazing at a poster for La Traviata. He then walked away humming, "La donna mobile," proving once again that few wrestlers know their operas.

Cornette, Fulton Resume Feud

By CRAIG PETERS

NASHVILLE, TN—A former member of The Fantastics and the former manager of The Midnight Express are at war again in Smoky Mountain Wrestling.

Bobby Fulton, who feuded with manager Jim Cornette and The Midnight Express several years ago in WCW, arrived here recently to take aim at Cornette in a series of matches.

"We still have a score to settle," Fulton said. "Cornette thought he could get away with some of the crap he pulled years ago, but I haven't forgotten. You know, I was thinking about forgiving and forgetting, but seeing what ol' Jimbo's doing here makes me realize that he hasn't changed at all. The man needs to be taught a lesson."

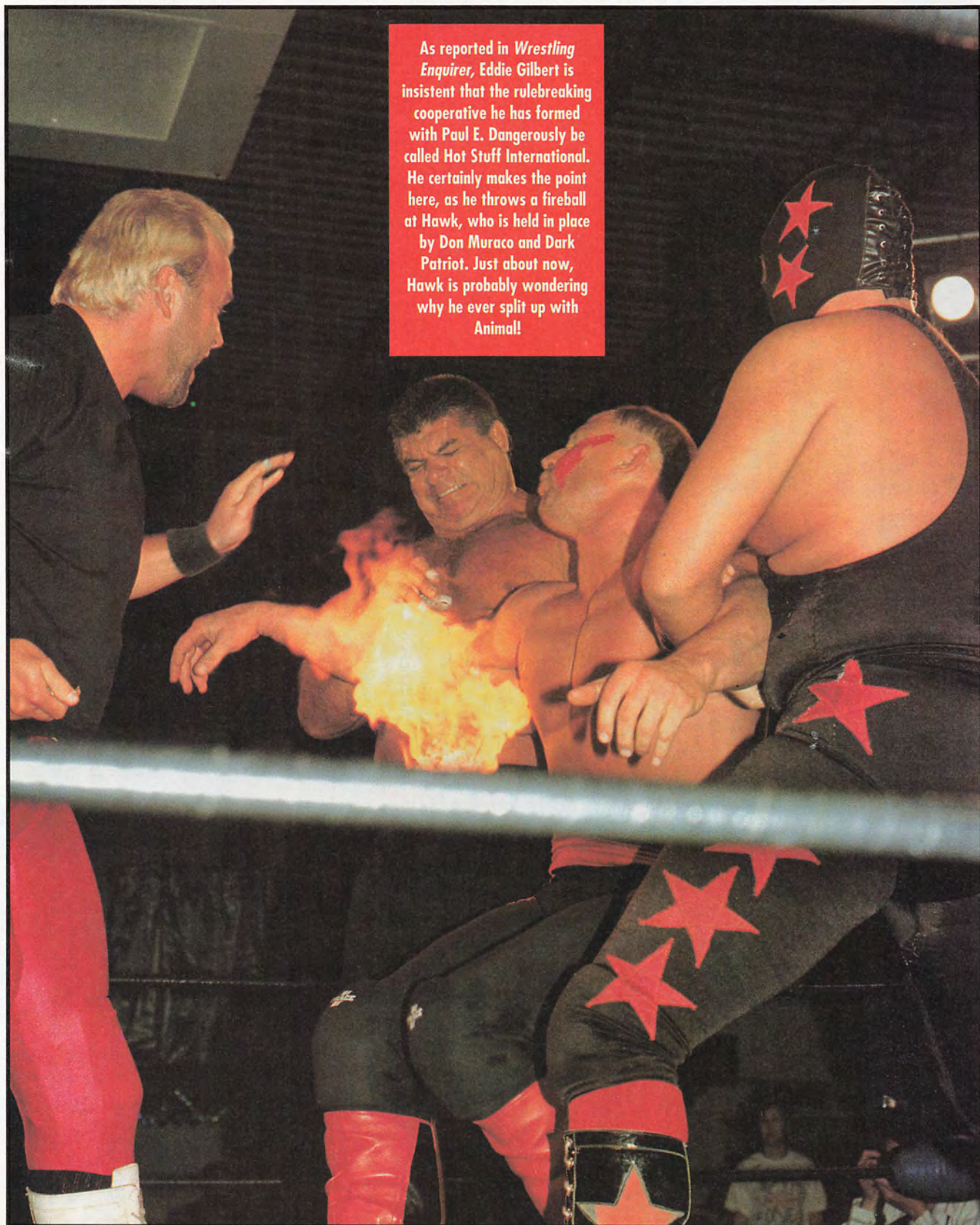
Cornette, rocked by the breakup of The Heavenly Bodies and the departure of former SMW TV champion Bobby Eaton, at first wanted no part of Fulton. But he has since agreed to wrestle Fulton "like a man."

"Jim Cornette's never backed down from nobody and he never will," said Cornette, who seven years ago was the loser in matches against Baby Doll. "Bobby Fulton's gonna find out that The Midnight Express still lives inside of me and comes out to play once in a while. If I was Fulton, I'd leave town."

Conditions and stipulations of the matches were not available at press time. Cornette, who has a penchant for using foreign objects, was recently seen having his tennis racket strung at a local sporting goods store.

HOT SHOT

As reported in *Wrestling Enquirer*, Eddie Gilbert is insistent that the rulebreaking cooperative he has formed with Paul E. Dangerously be called Hot Stuff International. He certainly makes the point here, as he throws a fireball at Hawk, who is held in place by Don Muraco and Dark Patriot. Just about now, Hawk is probably wondering why he ever split up with Animal!



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